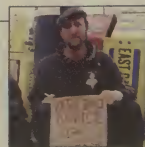


Startling details from convicted killer
On eve of sentencing, Brian Misquez says he 'freaked out' at man's East Bay home.
page 21

Streets of need
A look at the homeless in the Castro after Care Not Cash.
page 18



Homosexual horror
Classic gay horror films for Halloween.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 44 • 28 October 2004

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

CASTRO PREPARES FOR HALLOWEEN HORDES

by Matthew S. Bajko

Looking like the "Wicked Good Witch of the West," as one friend calls her, Donna Sachet is all smiles as she waves a wand on the city's advertising campaign to promote a safe Halloween in the Castro this year. Her costume and demeanor are a visible change in how the city's gay neighborhood views its annual street party and the masses of people who flock in from surrounding areas.

Two years ago the area threatened almost Halloween was canceled, and the city's gay community had to work hard to get the party back. It was the city's largest annual event, a celebration of the city's gay community and a chance for people to get out of the house and celebrate.



Jessica Wright-Orchard, left, and Gale Wright-Orchard, right, get into the Halloween spirit at the Castro's Halloween party, held at the Castro Community Center's Main Quinlan Ball Room, 2211 Market St., Oct. 28.

But this year's Halloween was a success. The city's gay community had a lot to do with that. The city's gay community had a lot to do with that. The city's gay community had a lot to do with that.

and donations. And according to the Castro and the city's gay community, it was a success.

The motivational material for the event highlighted the new zero-tolerance policy for public drunkenness and the city's new policy on public safety. The city's gay community had a lot to do with that.

page 23

October surprise? Bush is okay with civil unions

by Lisa Keen

In a surprise late-hour move toward the political middle, President Bush said this week that he supports the right of states to provide civil union recognition for same-sex couples and thinks the Republican Party platform is wrong to oppose such recognition.

Bush's comments came in an interview by ABC's *Good Morning America* co-host Charles Gibson at the Bush ranch in Crawford, Texas, Sunday, October 24. The interview aired on the network's morning program Monday and Tuesday, during the last full week of campaigning in the hotly contested presidential election. Voters go to the polls Tuesday, November 2.

In his interview with Gibson this week, he said, "I don't think we should deny people rights to a civil union, a legal arrangement, if that's what a state chooses to do."

LGBT Democrats quickly attacked the president.

"President Bush has used the weight of his presidency to advocate for the discrimination



President Bush on the campaign trail in West Virginia

of same-sex couples," said David Noble, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats.

Previously, the president has not explicitly supported civil unions. The closest he came was an interview with ABC's *Primetime Live* with Sawyer last December. In that interview, Sawyer asked Bush whether he would support a federal amendment "against gay marriage and against gay civil unions." Bush replied that he would support the Federal Marriage Amendment "if necessary" but added that "the position of this administration is that

page 17

Bay Area LGBTs head to swing states to stump for Kerry

by Tyson Gillfillan

Clark Williams of San Jose wants a John Kerry victory in next Tuesday's presidential election. But early in the election season, checkbook contributions were the only apparent assistance so-called blue state Californians could give to the Democratic candidate's campaign.

"I'm a stay at home dad," said Williams. "My partner and I just couldn't afford to go to a \$1,000 Kerry fundraiser." So in June, this strong believer in grassroots campaigning who serves as president of the Silicon Valley LGBT Democratic Club decided to rally like-minded activists and charter a bus to help get out the vote in Nevada, considered to be a swing state.

It's been called an antidote to the "blue-



Rainbow caravan organizer Clark Williams, left, speaks to volunteers before the bus leaves San Francisco last Friday.

state blues," and Williams is not alone. Many LGBT activists who live in solidly Democratic states such as California have been more motivated than ever to reach out to gay communities in battleground states and support

page 17

B.A.R. election endorsements

President and Vice President

John Kerry and John Edwards

U.S. Senate

Barbara Boxer

Congress

Dist. 1 Mike Thompson
Dist. 6 Lynn Woolsey
Dist. 7 George Miller
Dist. 8 Nancy Pelosi
Dist. 9 Barbara Lee
Dist. 10 Ellen Tauscher
Dist. 12 Tom Lantos
Dist. 14 Anna Eshoo
Dist. 15 Mike Honda
Dist. 16 Zoe Lofgren

State Senate

Dist. 3 Carole Migden
Dist. 7 Tom Torlakson
Dist. 9 Don Perata
Dist. 11 Joe Simitian
Dist. 13 Elaine Alquist

Southern California

Dist. 23 Sheila Kuehl
Dist. 39 Christine Kehoe

State Assembly

Dist. 6 Joe Nation
Dist. 12 Leland Yee

Dist. 13 Mark Leno
Dist. 14 Loni Hancock
Dist. 16 Wilma Chan
Dist. 27 John Laird

Southern California

Dist. 45 Jackie Goldberg

BART Board

Dist. 7 Lynette Sweet
Dist. 9 Tom Radulovich

San Francisco Supervisor

[Note: Some of the recommendations take into account ranked choice voting.]
Dist. 1 Lillian Sing
Dist. 2 Michela Alioto-Pier
Dist. 3 Aaron Peskin
Dist. 5 Robert Haaland, first choice
Bill Barnes, second choice

Dist. 7 Sean Elsbernd
Dist. 9 Tom Ammianno, first choice
Miguel Bustos, second choice

Dist. 11 Gerardo Sandoval, first choice
Jose Medina, second choice

San Francisco Board of Education

Heather Hiles
Mark Sanchez
Joel Springer III
Jill Wynns

San Francisco Community College Board

Natalie Berg
Milton Marks III
Julio Ramos
Rodel Rodis

Berkeley City Council

Dist. 2 Darryl Moore

San Francisco Propositions

Vote YES on A, AA, B, E, G, I, J, K, N, and O

Vote NO on C, D, F, H, and L

California Propositions

Vote YES on 59, 60, 63, 66, 71, and 72

Vote NO on 1A, 60A, 61, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, and 70

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OR BROCHUREStartling details emerge
in Pendulum case

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco Police made an arrest last week in the Pendulum bar homicide case and startling new details are emerging about the incident that was sparked by the victim sunbathing nude in the bar's patio.

Joel Dickinson, 49, pleaded not guilty to a charge of involuntary manslaughter on Thursday, October 21, in San Francisco Superior Court. He is accused of killing Jay Carbone, 52, in the popular Castro District bar last month. He surrendered to authorities on Wednesday, October 20, after a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Since his arraignment, an unexpected twist has surfaced in court documents filed in the case. One of the two main witnesses to the incident that resulted in Carbone's death, told police that he feared that Dickinson had a gun and might try to kill him if he didn't leave the bar and spend the night with him. The witness, a 22-year-old East Bay resident, went

along with Dickinson and said that Dickinson forced him into sex. How that might impact the case and whether additional charges would be filed were unclear by press time.

Witnesses said that Dickinson hit Carbone after the two got into an argument over Dickinson's displeasure over Carbone sunbathing nude in the bar's back patio. The witnesses said that Carbone had finally agreed to put his clothes back on when he approached Dickinson with an arm raised. The witnesses said that's when Dickinson hit Carbone. Witnesses told police that Dickinson slapped Carbone twice, on the right and left side of his head, before Carbone fell.

According to court papers, Dickinson has a long criminal history for mostly minor crimes and is currently on probation for a 2002 felony assault. In one case, he was charged with false imprisonment and in another with "threatening a crime with intent to terrorize." In each of those two cases, the charges were reduced to less-

er, unnamed charges through a plea bargain. His rap sheet details a number of arrests and charges that were ultimately dismissed.

According to the coroner's report, Carbone suffered three head fractures. Police believe Dickinson inflicted two of the fractures when he hit him on either side of the head. Investigators believe the third fracture was the result of Carbone hitting his head after he fell.

In his videotaped interview with police, Dickinson said Carbone's fall was a "fake kind of fainting" and said Carbone was into "some kind of drama thing."

San Francisco Police homicide Inspector Herman Jones told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he doesn't believe that Dickinson intended to kill Carbone and that the involuntary manslaughter charge is appropriate in the case.

The 22-year-old witness, who said that he feared that Dickinson would kill him, injected the element of racism into the case. Dickinson is African American. Carbone was white. The witness,

page 4 ►

Guilty plea in SOMA
hate crime case

by Kevin Davis

Bryant Kirchner pleaded guilty on October 4 to six felony assault counts and two felony counts of battery with hateful intent for a homophobic assault that occurred over Pride weekend in San Francisco's South of Market District.

Assistant District Attorney Greg Barge secured the plea from Kirchner, 22, who was sentenced on Monday, October 25 to three years of probation, anger management counseling, and LGBT sensitivity training for his assault of two lesbians, the most severe of Kirchner's four assaults on three women and one transman on June 27. Barge said he sought the anger management counseling soon after Kirchner's arraignment.

Kirchner completed his five-month stint in county jail on Monday, as he received a one-month good-behavior reduction from the original six-month sentence. He was also ordered to stay away from the survivors. If he had been found guilty in court his possible sentence would be three years in state prison.

"That is hanging over his head if he violates his probation," Barge

told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

On June 27 at around 3:30 a.m. at 11th and Kissing streets, Kirchner and another man baited the women and the transman with "dyke" and saying, "You just need some dick.... Come here and I will rape you."

An alleged accomplice pushed a female victim and the transman, and then Kirchner punched the woman in the face. One of the suspects also struck three victims who intervened, according to court documents.

District Attorney Kamala Harris was pleased with the guilty plea.

"In law enforcement we must take a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime by investigating and vigorously prosecuting prejudice-based criminal incidents," she said.

"The defendant threatened to

page 31 ►

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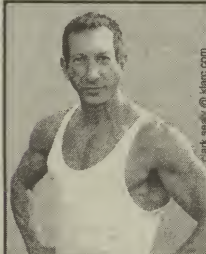
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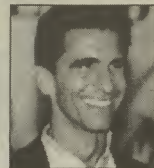


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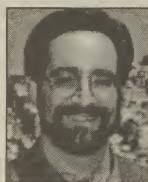
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SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Prop A YES
Housing for all, affordable & supportive

Prop B YES
Save neighborhood historic landmarks

Prop C Expand Access to quality health care YES

Prop D No Recommendation

Prop E No Recommendation

Prop F Non-citizen voting in school board elections . . YES

Prop G Health service Charter Amendment YES

Prop H No Recommendation

Prop I No Recommendation

Prop J Save city services YES

Prop K Maintain city services YES

Prop L General funds for single screen movie theaters . NO

Prop M Removed from ballot

Prop N Send a message: "Bring our troops home." YES

Prop O Keep needed health services YES

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop 59 Make government open and accountable YES

Prop 60 No Recommendation

Prop 61 Improve children's hospitals YES

Prop 62 Don't limit voters' choices YES

Prop 63 Support mental health services funding YES

Prop 64 Don't weaken consumer fraud protections NO

Prop 65 No Recommendation

Prop 66 Stop sending petty criminals to prison for life . YES

Prop 67 Save emergency medical care. Save lives! . YES

Prop 68 Prevent non-Indian casinos in urban areas . NO

Prop 69 No Recommendation

Prop 70 Stop the power grab by casino operators NO

Prop 71 Support funding for stem cell research YES

Prop 72 Support health care benefits for workers . YES

REGIONAL MEASURE

AA Make BART earthquake-safe YES

News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Forum tonight on local LGBT TV show

The LGBT Community Center and the San Francisco Pride board will host a community forum tonight (Thursday, October 28) to get input about *OutSpoken*, Comcast's new cable television series for the LGBT community.

Senior Comcast management and the cast of *OutSpoken* will be on hand to answer questions. The show is a studio format talk show with some independently produced segments. Each episode features live digital music, segments on LGBT organizations, studio interviews with representatives of local groups, original film shorts with discussion, a Castro calendar, and a "What's Hot" segment. The show premieres on November 23 at 8:30 p.m. on the Comcast cable system in San Francisco on digital channel 11.

"Comcast is setting a new standard in community oriented broadcast and I look forward to some original and entertaining television," said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington.

Community leader Calvin Gipson, a former Pride board president and grand marshal of this year's parade, will moderate tonight's forum; refreshments will be provided. The meeting takes

place from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the community center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco.

LGBT GOTV Halloween rally Saturday

The Alice B. Toklas and Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic clubs and the California Democratic Party will host a unity get out the vote Halloween rally Saturday, October 30 at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro and Market streets, in San Francisco. The event begins at 1 p.m. and will include members of the LGBT elected family and an appearance by the "three ghouls" (people dressed in costumes as President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld).

Leaders will discuss how to vote early, and in San Francisco, how to use the new ranked choice voting system for the supervisorial races. In addition to voting for president, California U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D) is up for re-election. There are also 16 state ballot measures that voters will be deciding. Locally, several of the supervisor seats are up, as are seats on the school board and community college board. Voters in San Francisco also face a host of local propositions.

"We can take nothing for granted this election," said Alice co-chair Laura Spanjian. "Though we are a 'blue' state, we must continue to work hard because the popular vote matters in this election."

Spanjian was referring to states that have been deemed safe for Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry. Recent polls have him with a healthy lead over President Bush in California.

Added Michael Goldstein, Milk Club president, "We need to implore young and gay San Franciscans to come out (and vote) on Tuesday. If young people vote, the Democrats win the presidency."

AIRspace art program

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts has announced that applications are now being accepted for AIRspace, its residency program. Now in its 10th year, AIRspace is

a five-month residency program for LGBTQ performance artists that culminates in a series of showings and one weekend of featured performances in May or November. Each artist is given eight hours of studio time per week to do research in a lab-like setting, focusing on the craft of making performance. The next deadline for applications is December 1 and interested people can visit www.jonsimsctr.org for details. Artists of color are encouraged to apply. Additionally, AIRspace alumni are encouraged to contact the center to participate in the anniversary programming.

CUAV remembers Milk, Moscone

Community United Against Violence marks its 25th anniversary Thursday, November 4 with a tribute to former Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, who were assassinated at City Hall November 27, 1978.

CUAV, which advocates for survivors of anti-LGBT violence and same-sex domestic violence, was founded in 1979 out of the Milk and Moscone murders.

Moscone's daughter Rebecca, and Milk's nephew Stuart will accept honors on behalf of their relatives. City political leaders are also expected to be on hand for the heartfelt program, organizers said.

"The legacy of Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Milk continues to touch the San Francisco community, and this year we are happy to remember and reminisce the victories and stories that started with their lives and have been written in CUAV's 25-year history," said Executive Director Terry Person-Harris.

The evening begins with a cocktail reception and silent auction at 6:30 p.m., followed by the presentations at 7:30. The event takes place in the Green Room of the War Memorial Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, in San Francisco. Tickets start at \$100 per person. To purchase tickets, call Poulos Brothers at (415) 677-8688. CUAV's number is (415) 777-5500; the 24-hour crisis line is (415) 333-HELP. ▼

Pendulum

◀ page 2

whom the B.A.R. is not identifying at this time, told police that when confronted by Dickinson, Carbone responded: "Who the fuck are you? You fucking nigger." But the second main witness in the case and Dickinson himself did not tell police that Carbone said that, according to court documents.

The second witness, who asked not to be named, told the B.A.R. that he is very sensitive to the "N-word" and would have remembered if it were used in the exchange. Police have insisted that racism was not a factor in the incident. The second witness also said that he saw the 22-year-old witness leave the bar voluntarily with Dickinson and doubts that Dickinson forced him to do anything. The witness added that although he didn't know Dickinson well, he found him to be a "nice guy."

The case has been continued until November 17. Dickinson was freed on bail after it was reduced last week from \$100,000 to \$50,000, according to the San Francisco District Attorney's office. ▼

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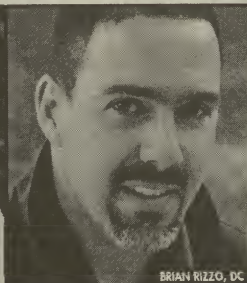
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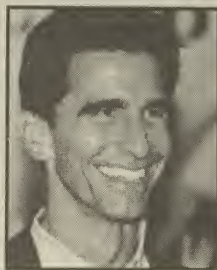


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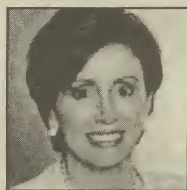
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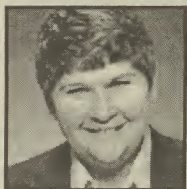
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STATE PROPOSITIONS

- Prop 59**YES
Open and accountable government
- Prop 60**YES
Sale of surplus state property
- Prop 61**YES
Improve children's hospitals
- Prop 62**NO
Don't limit voters' choices
- Prop 63**YES
Mental health services funding
- Prop 64**NO
Protect consumers from fraud
- Prop 65**NO
Stop state raids on local funds



Prop 66 YES

Stop sending petty criminals to prison for life

- Prop 67**YES
Emergency medical care saves lives
- Prop 68**NO
Prevent urban non-Indian casinos
- Prop 69**NO
No govt. access to your DNA
- Prop 70**NO
Stop casino operators' power grab
- Prop 71**YES
Support stem cell research funding
- Prop 72**YES
Support health care for workers

REGIONAL MEASURE

- Measure AA**YES
Make BART earthquake-safe

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS



Prop A YES

Affordable housing, including help with down payments and supportive housing for the homeless



Prop B YES

Save neighborhood historic landmarks

Prop CYES

Keep senior health care safe

Prop DNo position

Prop EYES

Expand Police and Fire benefits

Prop FYES

Non-citizen voting for School Board

Prop GNo position

Prop HNO

Don't deprive the City of funds to upgrade neighborhood parks

Prop IYES

Long-term economic planning to avoid future budget crises

Prop J & KYES

More revenues to avoid service cuts

Prop LNo position

Prop MRemoved from ballot

Prop NYES

Send a message: "Bring our troops home."

Prop OYES

Health care services funding

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 34, Number 44
28 October 2004

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This is it – vote on Tuesday

More than a year of campaigning has come down to the final days as President Bush and Senator John Kerry traverse battleground states in hopes of winning the extremely tight presidential election. We endorsed Kerry in late July, knowing that he would be a much better commander in chief, and much more supportive of equality for all. Yes, Kerry has stumbled on the campaign trail from time to time, and he's not always able to articulate gay and lesbian issues (not to mention issues affecting bisexuals and transgenders), but on balance, he is the superior candidate and the prospect of another four years of President Bush leading the country is unacceptable.

The news this week that U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist is being treated for thyroid cancer dramatically highlights the urgency for a Kerry victory. While the courts have largely been under the radar in this election, the LGBT community knows more than most the impact a president can have on the judicial branch. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life (as are other federal judges), and the slim 5 to 4 conservative majority now present on the court will shift substantially to the right if Bush is re-elected. It is expected that the next president will make at least one appointment to the high court. We have not forgotten that it was this Supreme Court that stopped the ballot counting in Florida four years ago, effectively handing the presidency to Bush. Other matters, such as the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and a woman's right to choose all hang in the balance as the court at some point is likely to consider these issues.

Also in the news is Bush's latest flip-flop, which we see as a blatant attempt to pander to moderate voters. On Tuesday, ABC broadcast Charles Gibson's interview with Bush, who said that he's okay with states choosing to implement civil unions for same-sex couples. Significantly, the president also said that he disagrees with his own party's platform, which opposes civil unions. Bush's comments are just another example of Republicans trying to have it both ways. When the bad news is pouring out of Iraq (as it has been this week with the reports that tons of explosives are missing),

Bush exhibits his warm, fuzzy side and tries to reassure socially moderate voters who don't like his conservative, antigay stance. He now disagrees with the party platform? Where was his disagreement in late August when the GOP was finalizing the document? During that contentious time, the party—including moderates—abandoned gay GOPers.

No, Bush hasn't suddenly changed. He's still the same president who lied about being a "compassionate conservative" and four more years of his administration will do little to advance equality for LGBT Americans. On Tuesday, vote for John Kerry for president.

San Francisco voters have important local decisions to make on Election Day and our recommendations are on page 1. This year's campaigns in the city have been overshadowed by the presidential race, but residents have a chance to elect several candidates to the Board of Supervisors, school board, and community college board. We'd like to remind voters in two districts of the importance of two queer candidates on the ballot.

In District 5, Robert Haaland stands out as the best candidate in the race, and we have selected him as our first choice under the new ranked choice voting. Haaland brings years of political activism to the table and will be an effective supervisor in his district, arguably the most progressive in the city. He is in a tight race with Ross Mirkarimi. We strongly urge voters to reject Mirkarimi and vote for Haaland first. Our second choice candidate is Bill Barnes.

Over in District 9, Supervisor Tom Ammiano faces a contested election. Ammiano is one of the leaders of the LGBT community and has done much over the years to secure equal rights. Ammiano has always been on the front lines fighting for justice, and voters should not be persuaded by his challenger, Renee Saucedo, whose campaign workers yelled antigay epithets in front of the headquarters of another candidate, Miguel Bustos, who is our second choice in the race under RCV.

Vote for Haaland in District 5 and Ammiano in District 9. ▼



Editorial

Greetings:

A bunch of us at the Pentagon were chatting the other day and got to thinking that maybe this whole Gays in the Military thing really isn't the big deal we thought it was when we discharged soldiers like you back in the '90s.

How about we let bygones be bygones? Come on back and rejoin your old unit!

The boys are pretty busy over there in Iraq, and we bet they'd be happy to see you!

Heck, bring your boyfriend!

I GUESS THEY REALLY ARE TRYING TO AVOID BRINGING BACK THE DRAFT!



A critical election

by Assemblyman Mark Leno

As LGBT citizens, activists, and voters, we all clearly understand how critically important it is that we elect John Kerry on November 2. No president or party platform in American history has ever so purposefully and strategically denigrated our relationships, families, and community as has George W. Bush and the Republican Party. One of their last desperate gasps at clinging to power was clearly evident in Lynne and Dick Cheney's ridiculous overreaction to Senator Kerry's mention of Mary Cheney during the third debate. It matters not that these people remained silent when fellow Republican Alan Keyes attacked Mary as a "selfish hedonist" or as the U.S. Senate (of which Mr. Cheney is the president) disparaged our ability to love during four politically motivated days of debate on the Federal Marriage Amendment.

In the most cynical fashion imaginable, Mrs. Cheney accused Senator Kerry of a "cheap and tawdry political trick" for having repeated Senator Edwards's generous words about Mary Cheney for which Mr. Cheney had expressed appreciation just one week earlier. In a clear message to Karl Rove's millions of fundamentalist voters, they expressed their shame of Mary Cheney. As Elizabeth Edwards courageously stated, the Bush campaign disowned Mary Cheney under the guise of defending her. They were exploiting her for their own political expediency just as they were accusing the same of John Kerry.

The reasons to vote next week are numerous. We must also re-elect Senator Bar-

bara Boxer and return a strong majority of Democrats to the state Legislature. Did you know that not a single Republican in Sacramento voted for a resolution I authored this past summer declaring the month of June to be LGBT Pride Month in California?

Of the 16 state ballot initiatives before us on November 2, I would like to highlight two. Proposition 66 will restore the voters' original intent to our state's "three strikes law," incarcerating repeat violent offenders for life. Proposition 66 will require that only violent and serious felonies trigger such a conviction. We are the only state in the country that has the allowance for non-violent and non-serious felony convictions such as petty theft and drug possession to do so. As a result, California uses its three strikes law 20 times more often at a rate per 100,000 than the other 22 states that have three strikes on their books. Two-thirds of those in our state prisons for three strikes were convicted of non-violent and non-serious offenses. We have 10 times the three strikes inmates convicted of drug possession than for second-degree murder and five times as many for petty theft as for second-degree murder. Given that the cost to imprison an inmate ranges from \$31,000 to \$75,000 annually as he or she ages, it is no wonder that our independent, nonpartisan legislative analyst's office has estimated that we have wasted over \$6 billion incarcerating non-violent offenders in the 10 years since we enacted the three strikes law. It should be noted that San Francisco County, which uses the law least often, has seen

its violent and serious crime rate fall faster than San Diego's crime rate though it uses three strikes 20 times more often than we do. The answer to why California spends more on building prisons than on building schools is this flaw in our three strikes law.

Another criminal justice related ballot measure is Proposition 69. Current law allows for the taking and storing of DNA from those convicted of serious and violent felonies in hopes of solving violent crimes and exonerating innocent convicts. Proposition 69 would expand this allowance to include the taking of DNA from all those arrested for any felony including shoplifting or the writing of a bad check. Even if no charges are filed or no conviction is reached, the DNA is taken and added to the state's database. It is then the innocent arrestee's responsibility to get the DNA expunged at his or her expense of time, energy, and money. Proposition 69 is the greatest assault on the privacy of innocent Californians that we have ever seen. No other state in the country has such a law. The legislative analyst's office estimates that Proposition 69 could cost the state from \$20-\$100 million annually. The possibilities of misusing one's DNA are huge. Insurance companies and employers illegally in possession of such information could cause great harm.

For these and so many other reasons make sure that your voice and that of every friend, co-worker, and family member is heard at the ballot box next week. Your life depends upon it. Our community is counting on it. ▼

Guest Opinion



OPEN FORUM

The evils of two lessers

by John P. Mortimer

John Kerry and John Edwards did not merely shoot themselves in the foot, they each put their foot in their mouths before they pulled the trigger. The Kerry base continues to erode in San Francisco and they have done themselves serious damage.

In the last debate, when John Kerry said he did not believe homosexuality was a choice that was a loaded statement for anyone with legal knowledge but it was astounding coming from a lawyer. By that premise Kerry admits the legal conclusion that being gay is an "immutable characteristic" (just like being black or being left-handed) and, therefore, that group cannot be singled out for "invidious discrimination" or denied "equal protection."

Talk is cheap and Kerry's base eroded when he failed to walk his talk. He says he's against a federal marriage amendment but he and Edwards absented themselves from that vote in the Senate. Now there is a disparity between words and actions. He might as well have said, "I was against an amendment before I failed to vote against it."

Of course, what few want to admit is that a federal amendment is probably necessary because the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional. Indeed, if lawmakers did not believe this they would not be seeking an amendment. If marriage is a "fundamental right" it may not be abrogated to deny equal protection to one discrete minority merely because that group suffers an "immutable characteristic." When the right calls this "judicial activism" their argument denigrates three centuries of American jurisprudence that, starting with *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), tells us a Constitution doesn't amount to much if the legislature is free to disregard it. Thus, barring a federal amendment, the DOMA, and all similar state amendments, may be struck down as violating the U.S. Constitution. Naturally, the right wants to rush to amend quickly before the 90 percent of college age citizens who support same-sex marriage have a chance to vote on it. As a practical matter an amendment can't happen so the last best hope is to appoint federal judges and Supreme Court justices who will espouse a strict and narrow construction of the U. S. Constitution. This is undoubtedly one of the most important issues for voters to consider.

Failing to vote against a federal amendment Kerry also supported marriage amendments at the state level and in Massachusetts. The proposed Michigan amendment is especially worrisome for it precludes not only gay marriage but also "similar union(s) for any purpose." This will actually strike down Michigan's existing domestic partnership benefits. The Kerry-Edwards position is clear for they are for denying rights at the state level but not at the federal level. This sounds similar to Dick Cheney's states' rights argument but both are wrong for the same reason for it's no more a states' rights matter than miscegenation or segregated schools.

Bush is equally unacceptable. On gay marriage he sounds the same tired theme complaining about "activist judges" subverting "the will of the American people." Notice, however, that the will of the people is irrelevant when it comes to abortion, stem cell research, and other issues on which the American majority is more progressive than the president.

But Kerry has grown downright insulting. In a recent interview that appeared in the *Advocate* when asked about his position on same-sex marriage, Kerry essentially responded, "Well, if someone can make a persuasive argument I might change my mind in 20

years." This does not demonstrate an open mind. This underscores the feeling that Kerry he will say anything to further his career - anything, that is, except "equal protection."

Senator Edwards flaunts his children on television and says, "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman." How casually and cavalierly the insults are tossed over. When he promises to impose his beliefs on us that, if anything, is "more of the same." He should come to San Francisco to witness all the magnificent gay parents with their children in the Castro and then tell us just why he believes he is better than we are, more deserving and worthy of "equal protection," as he would relegate us to "separate but equal" status. Come to San Francisco senators and witness the rainbows. Until then please spare us your patronizing balderdash about respecting the rights of others.

The Kerry-Edwards "domestic partners" proposal is nothing but another "Atlanta compromise" of the Booker T. Washington variety. It is accommodationism at best and separate but equal at worst. Forget, for a moment, that Bush wants to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, what Kerry-Edwards actually propose is resurrecting the odious, insidious, invidious, and hateful, doctrine of separate but equal as stated in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) that was overturned by *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954). And this was exactly the concern and legal reasoning underlying the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decision that struck down the civil unions compromise as separate but equal. As a practical and legal matter, that would turn back the clock over 100 years.

It's no wonder voters have so many concerns about Kerry-Edwards. When I hear such claptrap coming from ignorant Bible-thumping-bigots it's bad enough but when I see it coming from lawyers who should certainly know better, it makes my blood boil. This is no erudite discussion of American jurisprudence but very basic stuff, fundamental legal substance that any second year law student should know.

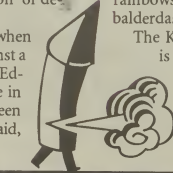
It is axiomatic that America has a profound national commitment to the principal that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide open, but there is no constitutional value in false statements, intentional lies, and careless errors. Those engaged in political debate are, to a certain extent, entitled not only to speak responsibly but to speak foolishly and without moderation. These candidates continue to exploit ignorance, pander to prejudice, and fuel the fires of irrational fear. This does not advance society's interests.

For many this election is more about the evil of two lessers than the lesser of two evils. It's difficult enough to justify casting a vote for any man who believes we don't deserve the same fundamental rights as he; but when he actually proposes enacting a federal Jim Crow law that would relegate us to separate but equal status I would have to hold my nose and then I might deserve the epithet "Uncle Tom." My best rationalization is that it would not be a vote for Kerry but against Bush. The nightmarish thought that Bush will certainly have the opportunity to name a next chief justice, and perhaps two more Supreme Court justices, makes my skin crawl. If that honor falls to John Kerry then I fervently pray he chooses justices that know and respect the law a bit more than he does.

In any event, when the losers lose, as they lick their wounds, they can only admit their wounds are self-inflicted. ▼

The writer is a San Francisco resident and attorney in private practice.

Guest Opinion



A mouthpiece for Dems?

Did I miss something? Since when has the gay community, or specifically its media outlets, become a mouthpiece for the Democratic Party? I am referring to the editorial entitled "Kerry's Mary moment" [October 21]. The gay community needs to recognize that any "friends" we have in either of the two mainstream political parties are very few and very far between! If you want to argue that we have fewer friends in the Republican Party than we do in the Democratic Party that is one point. But to play apologist for the Democrats and try to hold them up as our beacon of salvation, then I submit we have reduced ourselves to the level of the empty mouthpieces of the religious right or any other biased political group in this group with an ax to grind.

Have we forgotten Kerry's stand on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling? Have we forgotten his vacillation on the issue of the Missouri amendment on the same point? Who is the hypocrite in this equation? Out of one side of his mouth Kerry courts

our votes while out of the other side of his mouth he curries favor with the centrist voters by delegating us to the status of second-class citizens.

Let's be clear about this, it is not true that Kerry's comment took gays out of the abstract. He has, in fact, underscored the very abstraction that characterizes our existence. John Kerry and his campaign debate strategy team had more than ample time to review possible debate questions and we should have no doubt that his comment was carefully considered and is nothing more than a political cheap shot.

To suggest that only the Republicans have a proclivity toward political cheap shots is naive at best and dangerous at worst.

Is it too much to ask for a media outlet in the gay community that truly represents our interests and not the interests of one political party over another? The gay community can have no doubts about where the Bush administration stands on the issues of our rights, but let's not paint John Kerry as our friend. A

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Mailstrom



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Mailstrom

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friend does not ask me to give him/her my vote and then take a stand that denies me my fundamental rights, and expect me to keep quiet about it. I am at a complete loss how you can conclude that John Kerry "did gays a favor." What favor has he done for us?

Your editorial only reignites my frustration with both parties and both candidates as we face another election when we in the gay community are not given a candidate we can wholeheartedly support. Again, our choice is the worse of two evils. Are the overwhelming majority of gay voters going to cast their votes for John Kerry? Yes. I know I am. Does he deserve our votes? No. At least I don't think so. Will he get them anyway? Yes.

Why? Because we cannot tolerate another four years of Gestapo-like tactics from the likes of Tom Ridge. Because we cannot tolerate another four years of the tactics from the likes of Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, and Paul Wolfowitz. And because the possibility that we will have to suffer another four years of the Hitler-like policies of George W. Bush is frightening. Yes, John Kerry will in all likelihood receive the overwhelming majority of votes from our community. I know he will receive mine. But don't expect me to smile when I cast my vote, and please put your pom-poms away and save them for the time when we in the gay community have a candidate we can truly support wholeheartedly.

John Miller
 San Francisco

Mary Cheney is no victim

I can't take one more sympathetic portrait of Mary Cheney, "Daddy's little girl," stuck between a rock (Daddy Dick) and a hard place (her sexual identity). She is no Rapunzel stuck in a tower, doing as she is told to do, against her better judgment. Mary Cheney willingly does what she does. She works for her father's campaign. She wants him to win. She isn't about to make any statements to the press. She doesn't give a damn about anyone else in the LGBT world. She stomps merrily upon the graves of those who have fought for our equality (Harvey Milk) and on those who have been martyred (Matthew Shepard). She only wants to get paid. Mary wants her father to remain in power for four more years. If her Daddy wins again, Mary will undoubtedly get more.

This is what the Cheney family is all about. They have no shame. Mary is a chip off the old block. These people don't have any belief system or any values, except for the love of money and power.

Furthermore, Mary Cheney either instructed her parents to make the statements they did after Kerry called her a lesbian, or she gave them authority to trot her out of the shadows like a wounded puppy. As usual, Kerry didn't go far enough when he brought her up in the debate. In addition to referring to Mary as a lesbian, he should have also called her a whore.

In the Cheney house, everything is for sale to the highest bidder. Her homosexuality doesn't release her from being just as big of an asshole as her father is.

Patrick Connors
 San Francisco

Vote for Haaland in District 5

I am writing to urge readers in District 5 to vote for Robert Haaland. My support for Robert is based on his years of activism. I would probably not have the level of civic involvement that I do today if not for Robert and his work on year after year of campaigns. His role in sparking the 1999 Ammiano mayoral campaign brought a new wave of progressive energy into local politics.

With Robert, I know that he's going to be committed to the job because he's shown such diligence in his past efforts. I know he's going to be able to work effectively with people from a wide political spectrum because he's already done that in uniting past political opponents.

We have an interesting political challenge in San Francisco this year in the form of ranked choice voting. Some people may feel that out of friendship or personal loyalty they must cast a vote for another candidate, one who is likely to not receive enough votes to finish at the top. But I would urge people to reserve one of their votes for Robert, a candidate who is a frontrunner.

And, as a bonus, in electing Robert, we voters in San Francisco will get to send a message that a qualified candidate can also be transgender, a message that's important in a country where LGBT people are often treated as political scapegoats. I hope District 5 will join me in voting to elect Robert Haaland supervisor.

Larry-bob Roberts
 San Francisco

Voters win twice with Haaland

The November 2 election will present a special opportunity for San Francisco's District 5. By electing

Robert Haaland supervisor, voters win twice. Haaland would bring a wealth of experience and an unwavering commitment to the job. His election would also be a historic milestone by sending a transgender person to public office.

Robert Haaland has spent years tackling a vast assortment of issues. He is well known for his leadership in preserving rent control and preventing illegal evictions for San Franciscan tenants. His activism has included pushing for public health access on behalf of the uninsured and people with HIV. He has been prominent in struggles for civil rights, living wage laws, and police department reform. As someone who appreciates neighborhood character, Haaland is ready to protect small businesses from the influx of chain stores. From his work as a City Hall legislative aide to his public advocate role challenging the status quo, Haaland has knowledge of city government and a balanced perspective.

The LGBT community is in a period of increased limelight but the attention reminds us of how far we have to go. Presidential candidates tiptoe around how we "should be treated." Capitol Hill debates over a constitutional amendment to actively discriminate against us. Even in the Bay Area, a transgender teenager's murder followed with a mistrial exposing ignorance and prejudice. When Harvey Milk was elected in 1977 as California's first openly gay elected official, his "You gotta give 'em hope" message sent ripples around the world. Haaland's election would assert a contemporary vision of possibilities that would be heard far beyond district boundaries.

I urge my fellow District 5 voters to make history on November 2 with Robert Haaland as their first choice for supervisor.

Tab Buckner
 San Francisco

Marriage needs less sanctimony

I'm a junky for the political stuff, my marriage having been ruled invalid by the California Supreme Court. This is a very important election. For we queer people, some of us struggle with all the mixed messages from our respective faiths of origin. Denying us the right to marry is to deny us an institution ostensibly founded on faith. Marriage, its commitments, responsibilities, and sanctity, are not something that should be withheld or denied anyone.

It's called evolution. If every heterosexual marriage resulted in 2.1 children worldwide, we would be overpopulated, on the brink of extinction, awash in one big swirl of a landfill with poisoned air and sludge from which to extract water. Let's face it, because we queer people, as a rule, don't breed, we're actually God's chosen people. My sister and her partner are expecting December 8. Dee, her partner, is carrying her sister's egg and her partner's brother's sperm. Times, they are a-changing.

If we can agree universally, and even that is problematic, that marriage is holy and sacred, then, the last time I checked, we still lived in a country that upholds not only freedom of religion, but especially the separation of church and state. Not even a constitutional amendment backed by popular vote can presume to decide what is holy or sacred. What we need now is more sanctity and less sanctimony.

For all to hold marriage as sacred and holy, isn't that the goal? To imply that same-sex marriage would water down or taint the institution is preposterous. Have a good look around. It's hard to miss the degeneracy of the institution everyone is purportedly trying to protect.

Welcome, all, to the third millennium. Not only people of every color, or people of every sexual orientation, but also the full spectrum of gender identification will be recognized as being as perfect as only God's creation can be. In another thousand years we'll all be one lovely shade of light brown. Earth tones will be big in the fourth millennium.

Vote and be well.

Mac Phillips
 San Francisco

Not surprised by Saucedo

Thank you for putting the Renee Saucedo-Miguel Bustos story on the front page ["Saucedo admits anti-gay incident took place; apologizes to Bustos," October 21]. I'm not surprised that candidate Saucedo allowed homophobic behavior to take place with no intervention. Every other time this happened (and I can attest to at least two other very public incidents) she down-right denied it.

If she was truly sorry this time, she could have jumped off the trolley and personally apologized to Miguel Bustos. For a civil rights lawyer you'd think she'd be sensitive to everyone's civil rights. But when someone doesn't agree with her she's the first person to shout "racist."

And when day laborers took advantage of their First Amendment right not to go with her on a march, she kicked them out of the day labor program.

Ms. Saucedo allows homophobic, as well as other bad behavior, to exist because her general modus operandi is to keep the "other" as enemy allowing her

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Dump George Bush; re-elect Senator Boxer

by Wayne Friday

Tuesday's presidential contest is predicted by many to be even closer than the Gore-Bush race of 2000 that turned into a 36-day legal drama finally ending with the U.S. Supreme Court handing the presidency to a man who received half a million votes less than the declared loser. The *San Francisco Chronicle* probably put it best Sunday with its editorial page headlining "Mission NOT Accomplished" regarding the Bush presidency and urging the election of Senator **John Kerry** as president.

The Bush administration can be described as an utter failure on many fronts. **George W. Bush** and his cronies in the White House and at the Pentagon have completely failed the American people. The Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld policy in the war against international terrorism has clearly made the world much more dangerous rather than safer, and this sorry bunch has got to go.

The arrogance of Bush, the bull-headed, swaggering Texan, born with the ultimate silver spoon in his mouth and pampered through his entire life, having no one ever say "no" to him, is showing the true Bush in many sorrowful ways.

Bush, with his "I'm-the-president-so-I-know-what's-best" attitude has lost the respect of nearly all European leaders, normally our allies, and much of the rest of the world as well.

Days after the horrible 9/11 attacks on America, newspapers in Paris headlined "We are now ALL Americans" as our European allies and even many former non-friendly countries around the globe rallied to America's side as never before. After rushing frantically from airport to airport following the attacks to avoid perceived attackers, President Bush returned to the White House and for a few weeks acted like a true leader. Everyone in the entire world knew that **Osama bin Laden** and al Qaeda, (with the undeniable assistance of some questionable Saudis) had engineered the hateful 9/11 attacks on the United States. So, where is bin Laden today? "Somewhere in the Afghan mountains," we are assured. If the truth were known, he's very likely safely in a hotel somewhere. Indeed, I'm surprised he hasn't miraculously surfaced before the coming election. However, rather than go after the mass killer bin Laden, a tougher chore to be sure, Bush ignored the pleas of nearly all his major allies around the world and decided that Iraq's **Saddam Hussein** must go because of those dreaded "weapons of mass destruction" he was thought to be hiding. Hussein is a vicious bastard to be sure, but, again, not the man responsible for 9/11. In fact, no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq.

Starting a war in Iraq - going into a war with no idea on how to win it - was likely Bush's worst of many mistakes as president, but it wasn't his only one. Iraqi rebels are better armed now than they were the day in May 2003 when



John Kerry campaigns with former President Bill Clinton Monday in Philadelphia

Bush proclaimed "Mission Accomplished," and in fact, more than 1,000 American soldiers and countless Iraqis have been killed in that war. Iraq itself has now become a hotbed for international terrorists from around the world while American soldiers and Iraqi citizens are still being killed daily and the fighting rages on with no end in sight.

No, Mr. Bush, the mission is not accomplished - not by a long shot. The bottomless pit raging in Iraq is only one of Bush's many failures. President **Bill Clinton**

left the incoming administration with a multitrillion-dollar budget surplus; now the country is trillions in debt with \$200 billion being squandered in Iraq alone - money that should be used on badly suffering domestic programs here in the United States.

The list of failures of this administration is endless: a failing economy, outsourcing of tens of thousands of American jobs to foreign countries, failure to allow the import of cheaper drugs for the sick and elderly, the "backdoor draft" that Bush, **Dick Cheney**, and **Donald Rumsfeld** have quietly instituted, and even Bush's mindless fixation on amending the U.S. Constitution to prevent same-sex marriage. The list goes on and on.

Yes, Sunday's *Chronicle* clearly had it right - "Mission NOT Accomplished." In its solid editorial, the *Chronicle* said: "This presidential election offers a clear choice about who should lead America from the chaos of a post-Sept. 11th world. President Bush is no longer capable of steering the country in the right direction. The country cannot afford a second Bush term; we need new, invigorated leadership."

I couldn't agree more. Vote for John Kerry on Tuesday, November 2 and call your friends and relatives in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida and urge them to do likewise.

Re-elect Boxer

Senator Boxer has been a tireless worker for this state, particularly the women, poor, elderly, and gays, and little has to be said about her achievements - they are many. Boxer should be easily re-elected next Tuesday and she deserves a big win of thanks. When you go to vote for the Kerry-Edwards ticket Election Day, make sure you vote

to re-elect U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer.

Friday recommends

Here are my recommendations for other issues on November 2:

Re-elect Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco).

State Senate (Dist. 3): **Carole Migden** (D)

State Assembly, Dist. 12: **Leland Yee** (D)

Dist. 13: **Mark Leno** (D)

Dist. 21: **Ira Ruskin** (D)

Dist. 27: **John Laird** (D)

S.F. Board of Supervisors

Dist. 1: **Lillian Sing**

Dist. 2: **Michela Alioto-Pier**

Dist. 3: **Aaron Peskin**

Dist. 5: **Robert Haaland, Bill Barnes, or Andrew Sullivan**

Dist. 7: **Sean Elsbernd**

Dist. 9: **Tom Ammiano**

S.F. Board of Education: **Heather Hiles, Joel Springer III, Jill Wynns, and David Weiner**

SF Community College Board: **Natalie Berg, Rodel Rodis, and Milton Marks III**

State propositions:

Vote YES on Propositions 59, 60,

63, 66, 71, 72

Vote NO on Propositions 61, 62,

64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70

S.F. county propositions:

Vote YES on A, AA, B, E, G, I, J, K,

N, O

Vote NO on C, D, F, H, L

Politics and people

The campaign for San Francisco supervisorial seats is getting heated - and how about Green Party candidate **Lisa Feldstein**'s signs in District 5 proclaiming her as "The woman for the job"? Like, how sexist is that? If a male candidate were to put out similar political signs, all hell would break loose.

This presidential campaign winds down with political big names of both parties hitting the trail - former President **Bill Clinton**, perhaps the most popular politician among African Americans, campaigned this week in Philadelphia and Florida, making a pointed pitch to black and senior voters, while former Vice President **Al Gore** also joined in helping the Kerry-Edwards ticket. In Florida Sunday, Gore told voters that "If any of you ever think to yourself that your single vote doesn't count, or someone tells you one vote doesn't matter, just

page 12 ►

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For president? No option

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

The air has turned crisp, heavy clouds hang on the horizon, and the barest hint of winter's promise is in the air. This can only mean one thing: election time. Unfortunately, there seems so few options that I, as a transgender woman and a voter, can really get excited about.

You see, both presidential candidates have been less-than-thrilling when it comes to transgender rights, and the presidential race lies at the heart of this election.

George W. Bush has made no public statements that I know of, supportive or otherwise. About as close as we've seen was when a former classmate met him at the White House after her transition. Bush was indeed cordial, even supportive of her – but it is unlikely that his support for her is any better than it is for his running mate's lesbian daughter when it comes to the political arena.

John Kerry, meanwhile, did go on record during the primaries. He was the only one of the candidates to say he's not supportive of a transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act. This is in line with his Massachusetts colleagues on Capitol Hill – Representative Barney Frank (D) and Senator Ted Kennedy (D) – who have opposed the inclusion of transgender language for some time, and still seem resistant to the concept.



This doesn't exactly leave me with many choices. There is no one like former presidential candidate Howard Dean, who made it clear that he was supportive of transgender people. For that matter, 2004 doesn't compare to 2000, when Al Gore said that he would "have to educate myself" when it came to transgender rights.

Indeed, my choices for the highest office of the land seem to fall between who is less hostile to my rights.

This brings me to the one issue on which I'm really focusing. The issue of marriage is the one on which I simply have to base my presidential vote. As I've been married for more than 12 years – and that marriage has been a same-sex one for more years than it was an opposite-sex marriage – it is not an academic issue for me.

Thus far, defense of marriage laws have been used in the courtroom more against transgender people than anyone else. With more states on the cusp of passing constitutional amendments, coupled with the continuing specter of the Federal Marriage Amendment, I find myself in the position where it is my marriage that seems to require defending.

More than these obvious issues, the IRS has put out a missive to make it clear that under the federal Defense of Marriage Act, same-sex couples are disallowed from filing joint tax returns. Likewise, no transsexual – pre-operative, post-operative, whatever – can marry anyone with the intent to gain citizenship in this country. That is every transsexual, regardless of gender.

When I look at this, it becomes clear that I simply could not, would not support the current Bush administration. Never mind all the other misgivings that would otherwise sway my vote away from Bush-Cheney. Of course, this also doesn't make me comfortable with Kerry on the issue, given he, too, has come out against same-sex marriage. Nevertheless, I would expect to see him remain much more "hands off" than his opponent – and I would rather have someone who is going to largely ignore the issue than someone who is going to actively work against my marriage rights.

Of course, with all those state constitutional amendments floating around out there, this is no time for us to avoid the polls. It is simply more important than ever to get out there and try to fight against these things. The marriage

one saves can truly be their own. You might even help keep the government out of mine.

It is not to say that there isn't anything on the political horizon to interest a transgender person. This year there are three out candidates across the country, each in promising races to end up as the first major elected government official who also happens to be transgender.

In Dallas, Texas, a transgender woman named Monica Greene is running for City Council. She looks to have a good chance of it, given her history in Dallas. Even there, her transgender status seems to have been less of an issue in her "electability" than one might suggest from the state that brought us George W. Bush and Tom DeLay.

Not to be outdone, another transgender woman – Amanda Simpson – is vying for a state representative seat in Arizona. Like Greene in Dallas, Simpson also seems to have a strong campaign in spite of her transgender status and coming from a fairly conservative state.

Finally, there is Robert Haaland, who is running for the District 5 seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He likely has the best chance of the three, and not simply because he is a transgender man running for office in San Francisco. Rather, he has plenty of experience coupled with an endorsement list so long it would probably clog the bandwidth of my Internet connection.

I wish all three of them well, knowing that many other transfolks have traveled the path toward public office, only to be defeated. Perhaps these three have a better chance thanks to the courage of those who campaigned before them.

I also know it will be a long time yet before we'll see Haaland, Simpson, Greene or any transgender person making a successful run for the White House. So for now, I pin my hopes on one of the two men with a chance for the office, neither of which seem comfortable with transgender issues.

Nevertheless, I have no option to stay home. My rights depend on it. ▼

Gwen Smith notes that her first-ever column was four years ago, and also quoted Al Gore on trans rights. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com.

Christine Smith

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Karen Hemphill for Berkeley School Board
Jesse Arreguin for Berkeley Rent Board
Jason Overman for Berkeley Rent Board

Chris Peeples for A.C. Transit At Large
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Johnny Lorigo for Peralta District 2
Nicky Gonzales Yuen for Peralta District 4
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Funny money

by Jane Warner

Thai House, 2200 Market and Thai House Express, 599 Castro, October 23, 9 to 11:30 p.m.: Two men entered the Thai House on Market Street and ordered a take out dinner, paying the \$9 tab with a \$100 bill. After receiving change, they told the waiter they would come back in about 15 minutes. The men never returned. About a half hour later a man entered the Thai House Express, located at 19th and Castro, and ordered take out. The man handed the waitress a \$100 bill and received change for the \$8 tab. The man told the waitress he would be back when the take out was done and was last seen walking northbound on Castro Street. The man never returned.

Both restaurants, which are owned by the same owner, discovered the counterfeit bills and called police. Officers examined the bills and saw that they were bleached out \$5 bills doctored to look like \$100 bills. The suspects are described as African American, 25-30 years old, both about 6 feet tall and 160 pounds. Both were nicely dressed.

Hit and run

Gap driveway, 1945 Market, October 20, 5:20 p.m.: A car pulling out of the parking lot of Gap sud-

denly struck a man riding his bicycle eastbound on Market Street. The vehicle, described as a silver Dodge Durango, failed to yield, striking the bike with its bumper. The force of the impact sent the bicyclist crashing to the pavement. Instead of stopping to see if the man was injured, however, the driver of the SUV sped away, running over the man's bicycle and destroying it in the process. Although injured with a dislocated shoulder and bruised knee, the man picked himself up and walked to Mission Station where he reported the crime. There are no known witnesses. If anyone may have witnessed this hit and run they are asked to call

SFPD at (415) 553-1641.

Aggravated assault

Twilight Zone, 237 Church, October 23, 10:55 p.m.: The owner of the store watched as a man in a long trench coat came in and looked around. The man reached over a display case, took a weight scale and hid it underneath his coat. As he attempted to leave the store, the owner approached the shoplifter and asked him to give back the scale. "I work for the police," the man stated and opened up his trench coat revealing a fake deputy sheriff star. The owner again demanded the scale and threatened to call police. The suspect - described as a white male, 25-30 years old, 5 feet 10 inches, 180 pounds, wearing

a light green trench coat, blue jeans and black Doc Martins - handed over the scale and exited the store. As the owner followed him out, the suspect suddenly turned, reached into his front pocket and pulled out a beer bottle. "Do you want some of this?" the assailant threatened and threw the bottle, hitting the merchant in the left shoulder. The owner, who was not seriously injured, called 911. Officers soon arrived and searched the area for the suspect - who was last seen walking westbound on Market from Church Street - but could not find him.

Just sitting here

Dearborn and 17th, October 24, 10:20 p.m.: A man walking near his residence saw a stranger sitting inside his neighbor's parked car. As the man watched, he observed the suspect lighting a cigarette. Alarmed that he was witnessing a car break-in, the man ran down to Mission Station, a block away, and reported the crime. An officer responded to the scene with the witness. As they drove down Dearborn the witness pointed to a man walking down the sidewalk. "There he is," the witness proclaimed. The officer stopped the suspect and took him into custody without incident. "What were you doing inside the car?" the officer asked. "I was just sitting," the suspect replied. After checking the interior of the vehicle, the neighbor who owned the vehicle told officers nothing was missing and that she always leaves the car unlocked. The owner of the car refused to press charges. ▼



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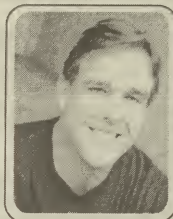
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-Jeff Sheehy, HIV-AIDS activist



Ross will be an advocate for the LGBTQ community. Ross:

- Worked on pioneering Domestic Partners legislation with then Supervisor Hallinan.
- Was a leader in police reform that led to the appointment of San Francisco's first transgendered Police Commissioner.
- Ushered legislation for recognition of transgendered rights.
- Helped reform District Attorney's Office for creation of same-sex victims unit.

Ross will be an advocate for our neighborhoods:

- Increase and coordinate better supportive housing services.
- Pursue permanent housing opportunities for the chronically homeless.
- Seek to create more affordable homeownership opportunities.
- Implement sensible quality of life initiatives to make our streets clean and safe.
- Enact progressive fiscal policies that ensure job creation and small business growth.
- Fight to allocate funds for HIV treatment, cancer screening, substance abuse treatment and innovative STD treatment and prevention programs like Inspot.org.

Endorsed by:

Newspapers:
 Castro Star
 Haight Ashbury Beat
 San Francisco Bayview
 San Francisco Bay Guardian
 (#1 ranking)
 San Francisco Observer

Individuals:

Art Agnos, Former Mayor
 David Spero, Pacific Petition Company
 Happy Hyder*, Lesbian activist, Co-founder, Women's Building
 Jeff Sheehy, HIV-AIDS activist
 Regina & Irene Dick-Endrizzi, Community activists
 Marc Solomon, Community activist
 Mark Barnes, Lavender Greens*
 Mark Sanchez, Board of Education Commissioner*
 Mark Gonzalez, President, Board of Supervisors*
 Medea Benjamin, Co-founder, Global Exchange, Code Pink*
 Richard Shadoian, Former Elections Commissioner*
 Sandra-Juanita Cooper, Community activist
 Terence Hallinan, Former District Attorney
 Tom Decaigny, Executive Director, Performing Arts Workshop*
 Wayne Justmann, Chair, Medical Cannabis Task Force
 Mesha Monge-Irizarry, Police accountability advocate

Organizations:

California Nurses Association
 Chinese American Democratic Club
 DogPAC
 National Organization of Women - SF
 San Franciscans for Preservation Planning
 (2nd ranking)
 San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
 San Francisco Green party

"We can trust Ross to work with the LGBTQ community to improve our city. He will be a huge ally to women and the lesbian community in City Hall."

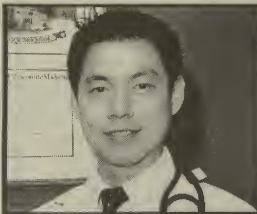
- Happy Hyder*, Lesbian activist,
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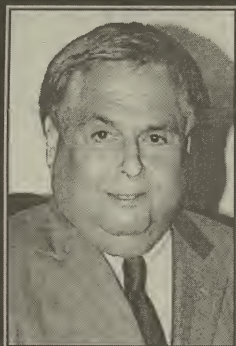
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Mailstrom

◀ page 8

group to congeal into "us."

Jaime Ross
San Francisco

Saucedo hasn't changed

Thanks for your recent articles about Renee Saucedo. I am glad that the wider LGBT audience is finding out more about Saucedo. A couple years ago there was a neighborhood meeting at Horace Mann School to discuss the best type of program to implement for day laborers. It was clear at that meeting that Renee was not willing to listen to anybody else but herself. In her presence I was called racist and a faggot by a number of her followers because I did not agree with her. Her tactics haven't changed. She creates a mean spirited and chaotic atmosphere so that there can be no dialogue and she can get her way. Those of us who live in the Mission are familiar with her threatening tactics.

For the record I am Latino and I am not a racist. Renee calls anybody who does not agree with her a racist.

I am also a gay man. I am 60 years old and have been a gay rights activist in San Francisco for 41 years. I have worked very hard for our rights for a very long time. I do remember the times when it was dangerous to walk the streets for just being gay. I also very strongly remember the homophobic comments I received from Renee Saucedo's friends just a couple years ago. I had an awful sinking feeling that day.

The city and county of San Francisco has no business sup-

porting Renee Saucedo in any endeavor. The LGBT community needs to let the city and county of San Francisco know we are tired of the awful and threatening atmosphere Renee Saucedo creates for all of us.

Michael Miller-Quintana
San Francisco

Saucedo not the first to 'behave badly'

The troubling fact is this: here in the cool gray city of love we only seem to love those we agree with.

The ugly scene at Mr. Bustos's campaign headquarters is not the first time that candidates or their supporters have behaved badly. Who remembers the nasty flyers handed out in the Castro during the 1999 mayoral race - Mayor Brown's face in scatological effigy, with the tag line "if it's Brown, flush it down!"

In the documentary *See How They Run*, African American ministers in the Bayview made openly homophobic remarks about Tom Ammiano. And so it goes...

I recall an ACT UP protester hurling homophobic epithets at a gentleman obviously ill with AIDS, because he intervened as the protester attempted to deface

a Castro store front.

In this town, our diversity is often celebrated only among those with whom we agree. Try to exhibit diversity of thought and opinion and all bets are off.

We have a long way to go before our progressive talk morphs into practical action, or achieves the greatness of a truly great city. That path will require genuine grace, and a leadership capable of bestowing it.

David M. Dempsey
San Francisco

Supports new ED

I am writing to support one of our valuable community based organizations, the Stop AIDS Project, as it brings on interim Executive Director B.J. Stiles ("Stop AIDS names Stiles as interim ED," October 21). Like many AIDS prevention and service organizations, Stop AIDS has had a rough time, between decreased funding and politically motivated, government sponsored inquiries. I applaud their action in bringing on B.J. He has the skill and experience to help move this important organization forward during this critical time.

Bill Hirsh, Esq., Exec. Director
AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

tell them to talk to me," referring to what happened when the U.S. Supreme Court ordered a halt to the vote counting four years ago after George W. Bush had pulled ahead with 531 votes. Both Clinton and Gore are expected to make additional appearances on behalf of the Kerry-Edwards team this weekend in an effort to get out the last minute votes.

Republicans, too, have called in celeb politicians. California Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** is appearing this week on behalf of President Bush in Ohio, though some in the GOP privately grumbled that it took some persuading to get the moderate governor to stump for Bush; only last week Schwarzenegger strongly and very publicly came out against the Bush administration on the controversial stem cell research issue that's on the California ballot.

Meanwhile, backers of Proposition 71, the stem cell measure, are airing a television ad featuring the late actor Christopher Reeve, who became a prominent activist for the disabled after a 1995 horseback-riding accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down. **Dana Reeve**, the actor's widow, appeared with Senator John Kerry last week and endorsed him for president, saying, "This is what Chris wanted."

And, former Minnesota Governor **Jesse Ventura** (forgotten about him, hadn't you?) now a visiting lecturer at Harvard, appeared at an "Independents for Kerry" rally in St. Paul, but didn't utter a word and let former Maine Governor **Angus King** do all the talking as Ventura authorized King to say the former body-builder supports John Kerry.

And is evangelist-turned-politician **Pat Robertson** really a liar, or does he have a bad memory? Those who claim that President Bush was too headstrong when he decided to invade Iraq got help from an unlikely source last week when Robertson recalled a meeting he had before Bush invaded Iraq. "I said to him, Mr. President you had better prepare the American people for casualties," Robertson told CNN's **Paula**

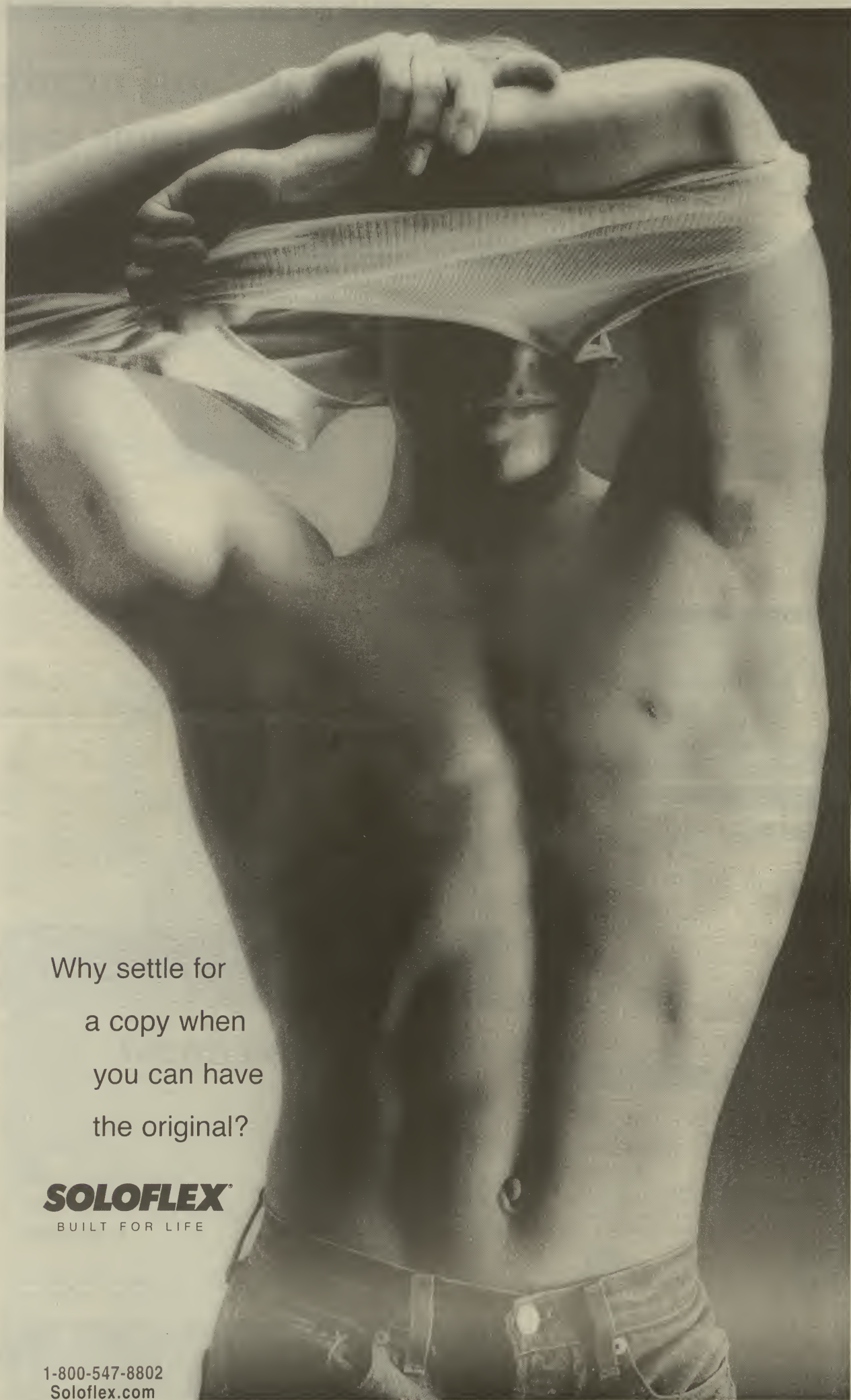
Zahn. According to Robertson, Bush replied: "Oh, no, we're not going to have any casualties." Robertson said that during the face-to-face meeting with the president, Bush "was the most self-assured man I ever met in my life; he was just sitting there like 'I'm on top of the world.'" The White House, of course, is now in the awkward position of having to deny the comments of one of Bush's longest and most prominent religious supporters.

Meanwhile, after more than a month of waiting the Black Entertainment Television finally got an answer from the Bush camp on a formal invitation to the president to address African American voters in a primetime BET news interview on the network. The answer is a curt "no." BET founder and CEO **Robert Johnson** first issued the invitations to both Bush and John Kerry, asking each to appear on the cable network to discuss issues of relevance to viewers during the crucial stretch of the campaign. Kerry promptly accepted and his half-hour aired on October 7, but the Bush campaign says his schedule "will not allow time" for him to appear and they asked the network to approach him again, "after the election."

Though Iraq and the failing economy dominate the national debate during this election year, the issue of same-sex marriage has emerged as a central issue in 11 states where voters will decide whether to ban such unions on Tuesday.

What to watch for after the polls close next Tuesday? First, there's a reasonable chance we won't know the presidential outcome until the earliest sometime Wednesday. There are provisional ballots allowed in all states now and while some states allow them to be cast in polling places where voters are supposed to be registered, other states don't, and there are almost surely going to be lots of legal challenges in closely contested states. One clue to watch for: Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania - whichever candidate wins two of the three likely will be president; no Republican has ever been elected without carrying Ohio.

Tuesday, November 2 is Election Day - vote as you please, but please vote. ▼



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City 'strong,' but needs more money, mayor says

by Cynthia Laird

While acknowledging that San Francisco has faced a "difficult" nine months since he took office, Mayor Gavin Newsom last week nonetheless said that the state of the city is "strong" and outlined plans to end chronic homelessness and revitalize the economy.

Unveiling a theme of "revolution of solutions" during his first State of the City address before a packed audience at Mission High School Thursday, October 21, the mayor also pointed to the many positive things accomplished during his first months in office, and made reference to the groundbreaking gay marriages that took place in February and March.

"[W]hen confronted by injustice, we had the courage to take a stand for equality and allow same-sex couples the same rights and privileges all Americans are afforded," Newsom said to great applause.

More than 4,000 gay and lesbian couples tied the knot during the monthlong wedding march. In August, however, the California Supreme Court ruled the unions invalid and said Newsom had overstepped his authority. The city continues to fight the marriage issue in court.

The mayor, riding high in recent public opinion polls, sought to plug some November 2 ballot measures as well. He specifically mentioned Proposition A, the affordable housing bond, and Propositions J and K. The former is a quarter of 1 percent sales tax increase; the latter is a business tax on gross receipts for businesses grossing more than \$500,000 annually. The mayor and supporters call the two ballot measures critical to staving off deep budget cuts that would affect health care and other city services.

Newsom said that in the last eight months, 955 city positions have been eliminated and five de-



Mayor Gavin Newsom

partments have been consolidated.

"We have achieved an historic agreement with city workers, securing \$138 million in savings. I'd like to thank the city's workers and labor leaders," Newsom said. "But if we are to continue to advance as a city and as a community, we must come together this November to pass Propositions J and K."

He said that without the measures, San Francisco would have to cut \$97 million from the budget over the next 18 months.

Newsom also touted his new Project Homeless Connect, which took place for the first time last week and resulted in 300 city workers and volunteers connecting 600 homeless San Franciscans with services and referrals. He said the initiative would be made permanent and that starting next month, city workers and volunteers will provide outreach one day per month, in addition to the daily outreach efforts already taking place.

Proposition A, the mayor said, will invest \$90 million in develop-

ing permanent supportive housing, invest \$50 million in creation of new home ownership opportunities, and invest \$60 million in development of affordable rental housing for low-income families.

"Proposition A will provide real home ownership opportunities for our middle class, rooting them in our city's future by making it possible for their children to own a home in this great city," Newsom said.

Newsom, a Democrat, was sharply critical of the Bush administration during his speech, saying the federal government has cut funding for police officers and that the Republican-controlled Congress allowed the assault weapons ban to expire.

Despite the heroic efforts of our Senator Dianne Feinstein, the same weapons of war that are being used in Iraq are now being made more readily available on our streets," Newsom said.

He pointed out the recent rash of gang violence in the city, and also made pointed reference to the April 10 shooting death of San Francisco Police Officer Isaac Espinoza, the first officer to be shot and killed in the line of duty in a decade.

Increased public safety was also high on the mayor's list of priorities.

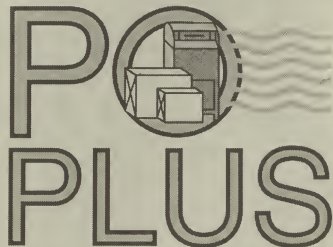
"Despite over 40 years of promises, programs, speeches, high rhetoric, and good intentions, economic and social conditions in the southeast are getting worse, not better," Newsom said. "It's there, in the Bayview, Hunters Point, Visitacion Valley, and Potrero Hill that our problems are magnified."

The solution, he said, goes beyond spending more money and cracking down on crime, both of which have been done.

"It's time for an order of magnitude change," the mayor said. "It is our task to connect hope with opportunity, to replace despair with jobs, and connect potential with solutions." ▼



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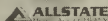
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Uncertainty on eve of national elections

by Bob Roehr

The Human Rights Campaign is pulling out all the stops in the final days of the general election, as it eyes the 11 states with antigay state constitutional amendments barring same-sex marriage and the close presidential contest.

Recent polls show the country evenly split between President Bush and Democratic nominee Senator John Kerry. The race has now come down to nonstop campaigning and get out the vote efforts by both candidates and their supporters in a handful of swing states.

In a conference call with LGBT media outlets Tuesday, October 26, HRC President Cheryl Jacques touted the \$6.5 million that HRC has spent this election cycle to influence the political process. The major focuses of spending have been \$1.6 million to state organizations to help fight antigay ballot measures and \$2.3 million to identify, contact, and turn out a million LGBT and allied voters.

HRC political action committee director Mike Mings said the bipartisan organization has given \$1.4 million to Democratic candidates and organizations but only about \$100,000 to Republicans. Some of this is because last fall the PAC board adopted a "litmus test"



Jane Philomen Citland

of support for any antigay measure to change the Constitution as a bar to receiving its support. It is also giving \$450,000 to the group Americans Coming Together and another large contribution to a group in Florida opposing the election of Republican Senate candidate Mel Martinez, who used to be President Bush's housing secretary.

HRC field director Seth Kilbourn reviewed the situation with 11 ballot measures to amend state constitutions to prohibit gay marriage. "In Ohio, we are making progress and the trend seems to be going in our direction," he said.

He pointed to polls from Ohio that showed support for the amendment dropping from the high 60s at the start of the effort to 48 percent in the latest poll. He hopes that stands up but he acknowledges that Election Day outcomes on the state initiatives are likely to be "a mixed bag."

Gay rights supporters are hoping to defeat at least one of these

measures. Oregon, Ohio, and Michigan offer the most likely prospects.

Another element of uncertainty thrown into the national political equation is news that Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist was hospitalized last weekend for thyroid cancer. That raises the prospect that over the next four years the president likely will have an opportunity to nominate anywhere from one to several members to the court.

HRC political director Willie Stachelberg does not believe that Rehnquist's health will have a significant impact on the election.

"This is not an issue that drives people to vote, this is base vote touchstone issue. If you are on the right you want to know that Bush is going to appoint a certain kind of justice, and if you are on the left, that Kerry is going to appoint a certain kind of justice... It ranks well on the bottom of issue that people care about." ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bush

◀ page 1

whatever legal arrangements people want to make, they're allowed to make, so long as it's embraced by the state. ..."

In February, Bush formally endorsed the constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage.

In August, in an interview on CNN's *Larry King Live*, Bush said that providing for civil unions was "up to the states."

"If states choose to do that, in other words, if they want to provide legal protections for gays, that's great. That's fine," said Bush. "But I do not want to change the definition of marriage."

Bush's latest comment seems to contradict his support for federal legislation, which has sought to ban both same-sex marriage and civil unions, and aligns him more closely with comments by Vice President Dick Cheney, who has said he thinks states should be allowed to offer civil unions.

Referring to the Republican Party platform, which says Republicans "believe that neither federal nor state judges and bureaucrats should force states to recognize other living arrangements as equivalent to marriage," Gibson asked Bush whether the Republican platform "on that point, as far as you are concerned, is wrong."

"Right," said President Bush.

Log Cabin Republicans, the national gay Republican group, did not return a reporter's calls for comment but did e-mail a statement from its executive director, Patrick Guerriero: "The president's comments are a public

recognition that Karl Rove and the radical right's strategy of using gay and lesbian families as a wedge issue in this campaign is not working."

Rove is Bush's chief political adviser.

Log Cabin Republicans last month announced it was not endorsing Bush for re-election, citing his support of the FMA.

Log Cabin did not respond to a request that Guerriero explain what prompted this interpretation of Bush's comments, and the latest national polls do not indicate any movement in public opinion on the question. Polling by the Pew Research Center has shown 49 percent of Americans favored civil unions last March and July and that 48 percent favored them in August. The overwhelming approval by voters of constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage in Missouri (in August) and Louisiana (last month) would

seem to suggest just the opposite.

But longtime gay Democratic activist David Mixner reacted much the same as Republican gay activist Guerriero.

"Clearly their polling shows they have catered to the right wing too far and there is a backlash that is hurting," said Mixner. He called Bush's comment "a desperate attempt by a desperate man who has no principles or value for the truth."

Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques issued a statement saying Bush's remarks were an "attempt to reinvent himself" and "cannot be reconciled with his efforts to change the Constitution to ban civil unions."

HRC endorsed Democrat John Kerry in the presidential race. While Kerry also opposes same-sex marriage, he supports full rights for same-sex couples, including federal benefits.

Conservative groups expressed

dismay with the president over his recent comments, the Associated Press reported.

"Civil unions are a government endorsement of homosexuality," said Robert Knight, director of the Culture and Family Institute, an affiliate of Concerned Women of America. "But I don't think President Bush has thought about it in that way. He seems to be striving for neutrality while defending marriage itself."

The Campaign for California Families, which is battling the San Francisco City Attorney's office in its fight to have state antigay marriage laws ruled unconstitutional, also was critical of Bush's comments.

"Here's the truth, civil unions are homosexual marriage by another name," said Randy Thomason, CCF's director. "Civil unions rob marriage of its uniqueness and awards homosexuals all the rights of marriage available under

state law."

The Alliance for Marriage, however, agreed with the president. Matt Daniel, the leader of the coalition that has fought for the FMA, said a federal ban on gay marriage, not civil unions, "is the way for America to resolve this in the fairest way, the best way."

The FMA, which seeks to amend the U.S. Constitution, would ban marriage "or the legal incidents thereof" for same-sex couples. It failed to pass the Senate and the House of Representatives in separate votes earlier this year.

Gibson also asked first lady Laura Bush about civil unions. Mrs. Bush said she is "not really sure" about whether she agrees with her husband concerning the federal constitutional amendment but said she thinks it is an issue people "want to talk about" and that a "debate" about the issue would be "important." ▼

Swing states

◀ page 1

get out the vote efforts.

Coordinating with other LGBT Democratic clubs and sister organizations in Reno, William's rainbow caravan of gay and lesbian activists left last Friday, October 22 for a weekend of outreach and community invigoration in a traditionally conservative region.

Recent national polls have given President Bush a slight lead in Nevada, so many of the road-trippers left determined and excited to help affect change. Berkeley resident Bec Hoover, who has also been participating in Pennsylvania get out the vote cam-

paigns, said she doesn't "buy" polls, and has faith her efforts will help ensure a Kerry victory in Nevada.

Between the sold-out charter bus and those driving individually, more than 70 Bay Area LGBT volunteers joined their Northern Nevada counterparts in get out the vote activities such as door to door campaigning, phone-banking, and a Saturday night outreach to Reno's gay and lesbian bars and nightclubs. A training workshop was given to educate volunteers on Nevada election laws and campaign tactics.

"For many of the volunteers, this was their first experience working for a major political campaign," said Williams. "We were

able to incorporate everyone's strengths into this trip - those who weren't very comfortable going door-to-door really went full force at the clubs. At [Reno's] popular dance club, Tronics, it was great to see all of these young guys in their 20s shirtless and wearing rainbow Kerry stickers."

Forming bonds

One objective for this trip was to give a boost to the local Reno LGBT community. According to Paul Cain, president of the Stonewall Democrats of Northern Nevada, who helped coordinate the effort, Nevadans have been gratefully organizing to harbor and transport various California groups that have been coming to

their state.

"It is organized pandemonium right now, but wonderful," said Cain. "One of our organizers said, 'California, if you ever have any problems, Nevada's got your back.'"

For San Jose's Williams, activities such as the rainbow caravan are also an opportunity to form coalitions among various Bay Area LGBT political groups. "So often our community is isolated into separate San Francisco, East Bay, and San Jose clusters. By making this a cross-Bay Area effort, we're making connections, and helping educate and inform these various communities, at a time when we particularly need

page 26 ▶

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Castro homeless trickle in after sundown

by Kevin Davis

Despite the generosity of ecumenical charities, area patrol officers, neighborhood associations, and the willingness of citizens to work toward solutions, Castro area homelessness, based on input from civic leaders, has stayed constant in the year since Care Not Cash was implemented.

Despite steady lines at meal programs, what some see as an increase in the Castro District homeless population can be traced mostly to the hustlers and panhandlers that trickle in after sundown, some people in the neighborhood say.

The evening vagrant crowd working synergistically, leeching off bar patrons differs dramatically from the daylight-hour panhandlers, according to Jane Warner of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police who works the Castro nightshift, providing private security services to many merchants and working to supplement pa-

trols by the San Francisco Police Department.

"It's almost two worlds, a whole different population," said Warner. "I think it's opportunistic at nighttime. They break into cars, do drugs, hustling, all under the cloak of darkness. From my experience, addicts stay out at night, then sleep all day long, crashing out on the sidewalks."

"The homeless population is extremely complicated, it's not just drug activity—it's sexual practices, the bars, and drugs. The nightlife is a different world. It's not just disabilities and dysfunctions—that's no fault of their own. In addition, people burn their bridges, find themselves out on the streets, doing things they wouldn't normally do. Young men are supposed to want to change the world at 23, not be standing on the sidewalk with their hand out," Warner added.

Warner cites the regular crime log postings from Becks Motor Lodge as an example.

"Stealing jackets, the rent-a-car, wallets. Guys go home togeth-



Sarah Zumwinkle and Lawrence Lyman panhandle in Harvey Milk Plaza.

er fucked up, stoned out of their heads, not thinking rationally on sexual desire, their guard's down. Common sense goes out the win-

dow. It all leads into each other," she said of the crime that follows.

Social service providers, however, say their services are being

used by those in need.

"I wish I could say there's a decrease," said Leah Brown, executive director of the Metropolitan Community Church Foundation, which offers its Simply Supper program two afternoons a week at MCC-SF, and serves food at the needle exchange site behind Safeway, and for the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center's Lady's Night. The church also provides sack lunches for participants in the Saturday morning Mission High School shower program.

"I was concerned that when Care Not Cash started, diners would increase, but it stayed stable. As long as I've been here it has pretty much stayed the same," Brown said.

Brown said poverty is the one commonality between clients.

"A lot of hungry people are in that line," she said. "We have a really wide spectrum—senior citizens who can't afford rent and food; people with HIV who can't afford medicine, food and rent; the working poor who can't afford rent and everything else; the homeless, destitute, people with children, people stretching unemployment checks, who just need a helping hand. Every person has a different story."

MCC receives donations from Rainbow Grocery, the Hot Cookie store, and the food bank. It takes a volunteer team of 50 to cook, serve, and clean up afterwards.

"My hope is that one day we open the doors and no one's there. That would be a joyous day," Brown said.

Many factors

Police officers working the Castro say many factors are at work among the area's homeless population.

"It's not a criminal justice issue, it's a social issue," said Castro beat Officer Lisa Frazer. "There's a lot of enabling rather than real help and real follow through. When you hand people money you know it goes to alcohol or drugs. Social service organizations are in desperate need of clothes."

"I've been trying to hook people up, to bridge the gap between services and those who need them. I have a lot of them on speed dial," Frazer said, listing Mobile Assistance Patrol, the Department of Public Health, and social workers. "We're trying to hook them up with case workers, to find out about appropriate housing. ... But you have to have the will to be helped. We won't kidnap people off the street. More and more people are receptive."

District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty joined Patrick Mulcahey, director of the food program at Most Holy Redeemer Church, Frazer, DHS housing and homelessness director Dariush Kayhan and others who took an early morning Castro meet-the-homeless tour two months ago.

"You expedite, rush into housing immediately, then work with service providers on substance abuse, and mental health," said Kayhan, who implements the mayor's goal of permanent exits from homelessness.

Those involved are proud of their success in moving homeless youth into permanent housing in Market Street's Perramont Hotel, which the Bay Area Reporter wrote about this summer.

For now, however, DHS outreach workers are focusing on the



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For the November 2, 2004 Election

Board of Supervisors Recommendations (by District)



D1:
Lillian Sing
(2nd Choice:
Matt Tuchow)



D2:
Michela
Alioto-Pier

D3: No
Endorsement



D5:
Andrew Sullivan
(2nd Choice:
Tys Sniffen)



D7:
Sean
Elsbernd



D9:
Miguel
Bustos



Rebecca
Silverberg



Myrna Lim

D11:
First choice
Co-endorsements

School Board Recommendations



David
Weiner



Heather
Hiles



Larry
"Coach"
Kane

San Francisco Ballot Measure Recommendations

REGIONAL MEASURE

AA • BART Bonds • YES

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SAN FRANCISCO MEASURES

A • Affordable Housing Bond • YES

Support Care not Cash with funding for supportive services.

B • Historical Resources Preservation Bond • YES

Help save beautiful and historic buildings.

C • Prop C Health Services System • NO

System advised by beneficiaries is a clear conflict of interest.

D • Multiple-Subject Charter Amendment • NO

These "reforms" contain too many uncertainties.

E • Benefits for Some City Employees • NO POSITION

Stop the piecemeal approach to retirement benefits.

F • Non-Citizen Voting • NO

Let's keep incentives for citizenship.

G • Health Plans for Non-City Employees • NO

Removes voter input over future increases in health benefits.

H • Prohibition on Re-Naming Candlestick Park • NO

We need funding for our parks.

I • Create an Office of Economic Analysis • YES

Long-range economic planning just makes sense.

J • Sales Tax Increase • YES

A modest sales tax increase helps our budget mess.

K • Business Taxes • NO

Will hurt the economy and drive away businesses.

L • Preserving Single-Screen Theaters • NO

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M (removed from ballot)

N • Military Action in Iraq • NO POSITION

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O • Policy Statement on Use of Sales Tax Funds • NO

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Sustiva does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take Sustiva if you are taking the following medicines: Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam), ergot medicines (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®), or Vfend® (voriconazole). **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations (particularly St. John's wort) you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior** have been reported by a small number of patients taking Sustiva. There have been a few reports of suicide but it is not known if Sustiva was the cause.
- **If you have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**

- **Dizziness, trouble sleeping or concentrating, drowsiness, and/or unusual dreams** are common. These feelings tend to go away after taking Sustiva (efavirenz) for a few weeks.

- **Pregnancy:** Women should not become pregnant or breastfeed while taking Sustiva.

- **Rash** is a common side effect that usually goes away without any change in your medicines. Rash may be a serious problem in some children.

- **If you have liver disease, have ever had seizures, or are taking medicine for seizures,** your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver or check drug levels in your blood.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of Sustiva taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

You should take Sustiva on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime, which may make some side effects less bothersome.



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ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz). Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

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SUSTIVA (efavirenz) works by lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4+ cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200-mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

R ONLY

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.
- have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures [for example, Dilantin® (phenytoin), Tegretol® (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]. Your doctor may want to check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicine should not be taken with SUSTIVA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from SUSTIVA:

- Vfend® (voriconazole)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA (efavirenz):

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)
- Methadone
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate). If you are taking SUSTIVA and REYATAZ, you should also be taking Norvir® (ritonavir).
- Zoloft® (sertraline)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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Based on package insert dated August 2004, 1178226A1

Revised August 2004

On eve of sentencing, Misqueze reveals details of killing

by Ed Walsh

Brian Misqueze glanced down at his hands. It was the worst day of his life. It was also the last day of life for Rogelio DeChavez, a man he met on the Internet.

The date was July 6, 2001. The place was the El Cerrito Plaza BART station. Both men were from the East Bay. Both were 22.

As Misqueze looked at his hands, he could see they were encrusted with DeChavez's blood. He knew what he had done. He wore DeChavez's clothes over his own bloodied clothes. One of the knives he used to kill DeChavez weighted down his pants. He tossed the other knife in bushes alongside the BART parking lot.

He hailed a cab to the Target store in Pittsburg. The cab driver could see that he looked strange and demanded to see his money before he would give him a ride. Misqueze said he threw the bloody clothes and the knife away in the trash at the Target store.

"I knew what happened and I tried not to think about it. I knew the law would be after me," he said.

In a series of exclusive interviews with the *Bay Area Reporter* since his conviction of second-degree murder over three months ago, Misqueze revealed details of the killing and his motivation that, he said, he has never spoken about to anyone before. His perspective provides a unique look into the mind of a man who would kill another man, in large part, because he could not accept his own bisexual feelings.

Just after he was convicted in July, three years after the killing, Misqueze told the B.A.R. that he had acted in self-defense to keep from being raped. It was the same story he told when he took the stand in his own defense a week earlier.

Now, he concedes that his inability to accept his own homosexual feelings, combined with a number of other stresses, including feeling pressured into having sex and financial issues, proved to have consequences that would forever shatter the lives of his victim's family, and his own.

"I guess I just freaked out and went overboard," the soft-spoken Misqueze told the B.A.R. in an interview room at the Contra Costa County Jail in Martinez.

"Something snapped inside of me. I have a habit of overreacting



Brian Misqueze

like fist fights and stuff but I never went that far as to stab somebody," Misqueze continued. "I guess I really couldn't control myself. If I could control myself I would have stopped."

DeChavez was stabbed 27 times. Four or five of the stab wounds were inflicted after he was already dead, according to the coroner's report.

Misqueze added that at the time he stabbed DeChavez he felt threatened.

"Back then I felt it was my only choice," he said.

When asked whether he now believes that his inability to accept his own homosexual feelings had anything to do with the attack, Misqueze replied that it was "half of the reason or a good part of the reason."

Misqueze's public defense lawyer, Laurie Mont, emphasized during his trial that society's negative attitude toward gay people was a large contributing factor to the stress faced by Misqueze at the time of the killing.

Prosecutor Paul Graves agreed that although Misqueze felt conflicted about his sexuality, that in no way justified murder.

At the time of the killing, Misqueze was living with a girlfriend and the couple's two babies. They were struggling with financial problems.

Shortly after his arrest, Misqueze told police that he is heterosexual and went to DeChavez's El Cerrito apartment to help him move. He said that he and a second man who was unknown to him struggled with DeChavez after DeChavez tried to sexually assault him. That explanation fell apart after police found a transcript of the chat between

DeChavez and Misqueze. Misqueze turned the conversation to sex and suggested that they get together. The pair also made reference to a previous sexual encounter.

Misqueze told the B.A.R. that he snapped after DeChavez pressured him into having more sex with him. The pair had already engaged in some oral sex but Misqueze felt that he could not continue. Misqueze said that he reacted out of "fear and anger" when he stabbed DeChavez 27 times. He said it took DeChavez "two to three minutes at the most to die." That is about half as long as prosecutors said that it took him to die.

Letter describes struggle

In a seven-page letter sent to this reporter last week, Misqueze described the struggle he had with DeChavez after DeChavez, he said, demanded sex. Misqueze wrote that DeChavez said, "You are either going to give it to me, or I am gonna take it!"

Misqueze's letter continued: "Then he grabbed me, pinned me with my back to counter. He went for my pants. I tried to push my way out. He then said, 'Why are you playing hard to get like a little bitch?' I felt trapped, a little anger, nervousness, fear, all at the same time. I reached for the nearest thing so I could defend myself, which was a knife. Apparently I grabbed two and just went off. I don't know how else to explain it. It's like I was aware of what was happening but I had no control over myself. It was really a bad feeling."

"I remember mostly everything," Misqueze continued in his letter. "I actually stayed around the apartment for up to 10 minutes afterwards. I went straight to Target in Pittsburg after. Then home shortly after."

Misqueze moved to Oregon shortly after the killing.

"While I was in Oregon I pretty much walked around the town of Tigard until I got a bike. I went into a couple of bars and a big mall. I was kind of in a different state of mind a week or two after the killing. Everything was unreal, everything had a fuzzy look. It's really hard to explain."

Three of Misqueze's jurors who spoke to the B.A.R. after they reached their verdict said that they did not believe anything Misqueze said during his testimony because his story changed so often. Graves said Misqueze constantly changed

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NZ activist in town for intersex events

by Zak Szymanski

Mani Mitchell was a baby boy named Bruce until the age of 1, when she was declared to be female, re-named Margaret, and later, surgically altered to fit how the world viewed that category.

Although one of the few known intersex people in New Zealand, Mitchell, 51, is not unique in this world; it is estimated that one in every 2,000 babies is born visibly intersexed, a term defined as any number of medical conditions in which a child's genetic sex and/or genital appearance are different from standard perceptions of male or female.

Standard medical protocol has been to "correct" the bodies of intersex people in accordance with the gender assigned to them, often by performing unnecessary surgeries without regard for future sexual functioning, and without a child's consent.

Yet within a community organized around traumatic experiences, there has been much to cel-

brate recently for intersex activists and allies.

On Tuesday, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors officially declared October 26 as the first annual Intersex Awareness Day, approving a resolution that "applauds the effort of intersex patient advocates and their medical professional allies to end shame, secrecy, and medically unnecessary genital surgeries on infants and children."

Next month, according to Marcus Arana of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, draft recommendations as a result of a public hearing will be submitted to the commission's LGBT Advisory Committee and likely will be forwarded to the full commission by December. The guidelines, while not yet finalized, call for ending societal discomfort with ambiguity and ensuring equality for intersex children and adults.

And on hand to applaud all this progress is Mitchell, flown into San Francisco a few weeks ago by local intersex activist David Cameron, in part to screen her

documentary, *Mani's Story* at the San Francisco Public Library earlier this month.

The award-winning movie played to a nearly full house and included a live interview with notable local sexologist Carol Queen.

The video was partly shot at the 2001 Creating Change conference held annually by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, at which Mitchell presented the notion that intersex children are easy targets for sexual abuse because of the secrets they must keep about their bodies. When Mitchell herself fell victim to her village pedophile, she couldn't tell anyone, she said, because she had "already promised" her mother that she would not let anyone see her genitals.

At the library screening, Mitchell was presented with a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors commending her for her activism.

Busy schedule

While in San Francisco, Mitchell has been doing advocacy **page 30 ►**



David Cameron and Mani Mitchell are working to promote intersex issues.

Misquez

◀ **page 21**

his story to conform with the evidence after he learned of it. The prosecutor called Misquez "evil"

and suggested that he mocked the victim as he strategically "cut him down," kept him from escaping, and watched him die.

Misquez previously had said that his two sexual encounters with DeChavez were the only times that he has had sex with men. He now says that he had sex with men twice before. Both were brief encounters. One lived near him in Antioch. The other lived in nearby Pittsburg. He said that he has never, until now, felt comfortable enough to tell anyone that, including his lawyer.

Misquez dropped out of high school. He supported himself in several low-paying jobs. Most recently, he worked for Target and Wal-Mart.

Misquez grew up in the Antioch/Pittsburg area in Eastern Contra Costa County. In a rare visit to San Francisco when he was 10 years old, Misquez recalled his mother's reaction to seeing gay men on the street.

"Oh look at the faggots, they're sick," he recalled her saying.

Misquez said he hung out with a gang but he was never officially "jumped in" or initiated by the gang. At the start of his trial in June, a *Contra Costa Times* article listed details of his crime and of his sexual involvement with another man. The paper is widely read in the jail. Since the day the article was published, Misquez has been isolated in a protective custody unit of the jail to protect him from other inmates.

He had been friendly with others associated with his gang during his three years in jail. Another acquaintance he spent time with in jail was Justin Helzer, who along with his brother Glenn Taylor Helzer, and their friend Dawn Godman, was convicted of killing five people in one of Contra Costa County's most gruesome murder cases.

He has a cellmate and is confined to his cell 23 hours a day. He passes the time by writing letters and reading. His favorite genre is true-crime books. One of his favorite authors is Ann Rule. He said his family remains supportive and visits him often.

Misquez is scheduled to be sentenced on Friday, October 29. He faces a term of 16-years-to-life. He said he would speak at the hearing. DeChavez's family is also expected to speak at what is expected to be a very emotional court proceeding.

When asked what he will say to the DeChavez's family when it's his turn to speak, Misquez replied: "I would tell them that I am sorry. It wasn't supposed to be that way. We were just supposed to hang out for a while to do what we said in the chat." ▼

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The Castro to host Election Night party

by Matthew S. Bajko

While Sunday night ushers in the spooks of Halloween, the real fright night could come Tuesday, November 2 when Americans go to the polls to elect their next president. For many LGBT voters, the prospect of four more years of George W. Bush is truly frightening.

Many queer Democrats, and even a large number of gay Republicans, are hoping for a change in administrations and have their fingers crossed that Senator John Kerry will send Bush packing from the White House. Collectively, the nation will be holding its breath to see whether a repeat of the 2000 election, when ballot problems in Florida delayed the outcome for weeks, will require

the U.S. Supreme Court to once again decide who becomes the next commander in chief.

This year, San Franciscans can find solace and company in the Castro as they watch election results roll in from across the country. Reprising his election night party of 1992, local event producer Ggreg Taylor is hosting a bash in the heart of the city's gay district Tuesday night from 6 to 10 p.m.

Taylor plans to install an ad hoc stage at the corner of Castro and 18th streets — what he calls the town square of gay America — where large screens will project the results of elections pertinent to the LGBT community as the votes are counted and winners are declared.

"Why be stuck at home glued to the tube when you can be among your extended family in

the center of our community getting the same more targeted results minus the talking heads," said Taylor. "This will be the place for our community to come together and have fun as we cross our fingers and hope America votes for a better future."

Taylor will be joined by Peaches Christ as an emcee that evening and he plans to have video messages created by gay celebrities and politicians. So far, New York City drag queen Lady Bunny has committed, and Taylor has asked Hedwig and the Angry Inch star John Cameron Mitchell, Justin Bond of Kiki & Herb, the Scissor Sisters, and a number of politicians to also tape video spots.

"We want to serve as GNN, the Gay News Network, cutting out the pundits and talking heads, and replacing them with people from

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Halloween

◀ page 1

Costumes" set the tone for the evening.

Though some problems were reported last year, the new efforts worked to give a safer, more festive feel to the party. Based on that success, promoters expect a record number of people to show up in the Castro this year. The tagline "No Booze No Drugs No Bashing" still remains in the event's ads but the tone is more of having fun than fearing what the holiday will bring.

"That is a turnaround message. Last year the message we were communicating was don't mess up. This year the message we are communicating is good times and good behavior," said Dufty. "The framework is there to have a safe and fun evening. I am hopeful people in the neighborhood will come out and support this event. I think it is going to be fun."

Over 200,000 people are expected to cram into the Castro area Sunday, October 31 between 7 p.m. and midnight. There will be three stages of entertainment. The annual March of Light Parade will snake its way through the street party at 8:30 p.m. Once again KRON-TV will broadcast live from the main stage at Castro and Market, where costume contests will be held.

Political tone

Coming two days before Election Day, the event will also have a more political tone than last year. In front of its Market Street headquarters Marriage Equality California will present the "Horror of Marriage Inequality." Revelers will be able to interact with an evil cast of characters including: Doctor Family-Only, Senator Separate-But-Equal, General Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell, Reverend My-Bible-Tells-Me-So, INS Agent Not-In-This-Country, and The Bride of Fundie-stein.

MECA chapter co-chair Kelly Rivera Hart said the group is not concerned about safety that night and instead wants to use the event to raise awareness about the importance of gay rights.

"With 11 states voting on constitutional amendments this November 2, it is pretty key we all know what we are dealing with," he said. "Where we are going to be

set up we are not in the middle of the crowd. But we will be visible for the crowd as they walk past. I don't think we are going to be in the middle of anything that might be dangerous for volunteers."

Ensuring the safety of the crowd, the San Francisco Police Department intends to be out in force once again this year, confiscating any alcohol found on revelers and asking people to remove any parts of their costumes deemed dangerous.

Over 300 police officers, sheriff deputies, firefighters (including emergency medical personnel), and 60 parking and traffic control officers will be working Sunday night. The police will set up a headquarters at the former City Athletic Club on 17th Street above Pink Triangle Park.

The alcohol ban is "out of concern and safety for the whole community," said Castro beat Officer Lisa Frazer. "The absence of alcohol made a remarkable difference last year."

Frazer advises Castro residents hosting parties this Sunday to buy their alcohol early and make sure guests remain indoors or in backyards.

"We are not going to let anyone have alcohol on the streets. We want people to have a great time with their party. But they need to know there is zero tolerance of alcohol on the street so they need to keep cans and cups in their house or in their backyard," she said.

Assisting the police will be 80 security volunteers hired by San Francisco Special Patrol Officer Jane Warner, who patrols the Castro area. Warner will have stations set up at the former Zao Noodle space on 16th Street and in the community meeting room in the Bank of America building on Castro Street.

After being petitioned by business owner Patrick Batt, the mayor's office gave Warner \$17,000 to help pay for the extra security. Though the money is \$4,000 less than she has received in past years, Warner said she was able to hire the same amount of people this year.

Others have stepped up to help cover her costs, including the Police Department's Pride Alliance, an employee group for LGBT officers, which gave \$1,000; both the Buena Vista and Duboce Triangle neighborhood groups gave about \$300; and the Castro Theatre con-

tributed \$576.

"I think it will just be huge all weekend," said Warner of the crowds she expects in the Castro starting Friday night through Sunday. "I don't think people are as scared as last year. The year before was really terrible and very violent."

The weather will play a big part in how large a crowd does show up this year. The Castro Street Fair earlier this month had a drop-off in attendance and donations due to the cold, foggy, and windy weather. Though that type of weather might not be so bad for Halloween, joked Warner.

"I am praying for rain, a storm," she said, laughing.

Residents should be aware, she said, that the city will begin towing cars out of the designated event area at 1 p.m. on Sunday and the streets will be closed at 3 p.m. in order to set up the stages and barricades around the event perimeter. Everett Middle School (entrance on 17th, between Sanchez and Church) will offer paid parking for \$20 per vehicle as a school fundraiser. The school can be contacted at (415) 241-6344 for details. CPMC Davies campus garage will also be open on the night of the event.

BART once again will be running a later train Sunday night and is selling special \$6 unlimited passes good from 4 p.m. on that day; MUNI is selling special \$2 all day passes.

"There is absolutely no parking, so try to take transit in," advised Warner.

There will be 14 entry gates to the street party, and a \$3 donation is asked of entrants. The money collected will help pay for the evening and help fund the LGBT Community Center, Folsom Street Events, Bay Positives and San Francisco Sex Information.

"The city has done its part, the neighborhood has done its part and our community partners have done their part. It's now up to the community to do its part and give generously at the gates so that we can cover the costs of the event and donate back to neighborhood charities," said Audrey Joseph, president of the city's Entertainment Commission who has overseen planning for Halloween this year.

For more information about street closures or the Halloween event, visit halloweensf.com. ▼

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Vote Yes on N

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WHAT IS PROP N?

Proposition N states:

"It is the Policy of the people of the City and County of San Francisco that: The Federal government should take immediate steps to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq and bring our troops safely home now."

As the first city to vote to end the occupation and bring the troops home, San Francisco can take a stand and help lead the way for other cities.

SF BAY GUARDIAN:

"**VOTE YES!** San Francisco emerged as the epicenter of the antiwar protests in the United States when Bush first began bombing Iraq based on false pretenses. Now San Francisco has the opportunity to take a similar lead on the electoral front. Proposition N would make it official San Francisco policy to urge the federal government to withdraw all troops and military personnel from Iraq. Backers hope passing Prop. N might help build political momentum against the Bush administration's ongoing war in Iraq, as other municipalities follow suit. It's a tactic borrowed from the Vietnam years. And it should be implemented now too." 10/6/04

THE ADMINISTRATION LIED ABOUT THE CASE FOR WAR

George W. Bush disgracefully lied to the American people to make the case for war in Iraq. His message was one of deceit and fear-mongering, linking Saddam Hussein to al Qaeda and weapons of mass destruction. There was never a legitimate case for a preemptive war.

Prop N Endorsers

SF Supervisors:

Michela Alioto-Pier
Tom Amiano
Chris Daly
Bevan Dufty
Matt Gonzalez
Sophie Maxwell
Jake McGoldrick
Aaron Peskin
Gerardo Sandoval

Jeff Adachi, Public Defender
John Burton, State Senate
Mark Leno, State Assembly
Leland Yee, State Assembly

Organizations:

AFT Local 2121
Alice B. Toklas LGBT Club

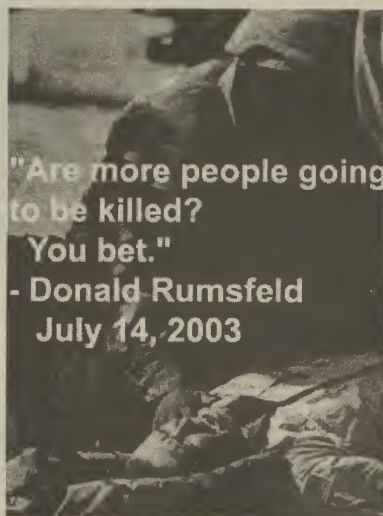
American Friends Service Com.
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Latino Democratic Club
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club
ILWU West Bay Legislative Comm.
Irish-American Democratic Club
NAACP/SF
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Noe Valley Democratic Club
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Methodist Church
Peace & Freedom Party, SF County
Central Committee
Progressive Jewish Alliance
Richmond District Democratic Club
Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club
San Francisco Bay Guardian
San Francisco Bay Times
SF Bay View Newspaper
SF Building & Construction
Trades Council, AFL-CIO
San Francisco Democratic Party.
San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO
SF Young Democrats
SF Green Party
SF Pride at Work, AFL-CIO

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THE HUMAN COST

Overruling global public opinion and objections from allies, Bush relentlessly led us into a war that has cost over 1,100 American lives and left more than 6,000 wounded.

The U.S. invasion and occupation has cost the lives of tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians in addition to maiming and wounding countless more. It has led to incredible environmental degradation as well as the destruction of homes, schools, sanitation and water treatment plants, and hospitals. Hunger, homelessness and suffering are widespread.

The war and occupation has perpetuated the denial of many labor and human rights. It has sharply increased violence against women and girls. A law issued by Saddam Hussein prohibiting unions where most Iraqis work has continued to be enforced.

Systemic and illegal abuse of detainees has been found in the Abu Ghraib prison facility and in other detention centers.

The U.S. occupation of Iraq is the cause of insurgency. Bring our troops home now.

THE COST AT HOME

With Congress appropriating over \$150 billion dollars, the war and occupation in Iraq has benefited corporate military contractors while widening economic inequality at home.

It has diverted resources away from vital public services and community programs. The war and occupation of Iraq has cost California over \$19.5 billion dollars. San Francisco's share of that burden is estimated at over \$520 million dollars. With these resources, San Francisco could fund for the next 10 years: health coverage for 1,000 uninsured youth, meals for 5000 seniors, pre-school for 500 low-income children, 100 new teachers, and supportive housing for our estimated 3,000 chronically homeless individuals.

The war and occupation of Iraq has cost San Francisco over \$520 million.

Rather than squander more of our precious public resources and sacrifice many more American and Iraqi lives on the occupation, monies should be used to restore life-affirming efforts -- public health, welfare, education, jobs, arts and the environment in our country and around the world.

ARE WE SAFER?

The war and occupation in Iraq has fueled, not lowered, the risk of terrorism here and around the world. We are less safe today than we were when the Bush administration put the nation on this failed course.

For more info or to help go to www.yesonn.net or call Howard Wallace, Campaign Coordinator at (415) 861-0318.

SF Public Library and GLBT Historical Society eye joint Castro venture

by Matthew S. Bajko

Two keepers of the gay community's past have their eyes on a future transformation of a branch library in the Castro into a GLBT historical research center and museum. Boosters of the project envision creating not only a first of its kind gay research center but also a cultural destination in the heart of the city's gay neighborhood.

The San Francisco Public Library and the GLBT Historical Society revealed this week that the two organizations are in talks to move the society's archives and downtown museum into a redesigned and expanded Eureka Valley Harvey Milk Memorial Library on 16th Street, one block east of Market Street. Under the plan, the library would also relocate out of storage its own LGBT archival material, currently housed at the main library as part of its James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center.

The historical society's board of directors voted unanimously on September 30 to pursue talks with the library and city officials about creating a cooperative venture to transform the Eureka branch library into what project



The Harvey Milk exhibit at the GLBT Historical Society.

supporters say would be a tourist attraction for LGBT people and a valuable resource for gay studies scholars. On Tuesday, October 26, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who envisions the project as a centerpiece of his Castro Renaissance plan, introduced a resolution before the Board of Supervisors to gain his colleagues' support for the project.

"We think it is very promising. It really is a unique opportunity to showcase the incredible rich history of the Bay Area and San Fran-

cisco and do it in a way that creates a real destination point for the city's LGBT community and really the larger community, tourists, academic community, all the constituencies which we draw," said Terence Kissack, the GLBT Historical Society's executive director. "Locating the historical society in the Castro makes sense. Even more so, if we can create this research center, this destination point, that is a real attractive opportunity."

Paul Underwood, a gay man

and acting city librarian, said, "We should be the home of this center. It would be the first of its kind in the U.S. to have a joint research center."

Dufty, who brought the two groups together in August to begin exploring the possibility of the project, said, "I would like to see it be a signature building. Over time, it could be a very visible symbol of San Francisco's LGBT community."

The project is in the preliminary stages but is on a fast-track timeline. In December, Dufty said he hopes to hold community meetings about the proposal and then bring it before the city's Library Commission in January to see if there is enough support to move forward on the project.

Built in the 1960s, the 5,500 square foot Eureka branch library is already slated to undergo renovations next year and \$4.3 million in bond monies has been allocated for the construction costs. If the joint venture is approved, it is estimated an additional \$14 million will need to be raised.

"Currently, it is a seismic risk," said Underwood. "If we go with

Bevan's plan we will be demolishing it. If we don't, we will be adding structural support to make sure it can survive an earthquake and make it accessible to people with disabilities."

In addition, Underwood said he would like to expand the library's children's area, widen the aisles between the stacks, and upgrade the electrical wiring to better meet today's technology needs.

"We need to focus on providing a larger space for children. More and more children are coming into that branch who are adopted or are the children of straight and same-sex couples," said Underwood.

Incorporating the historical society into the library branch would mean elimination of the parking currently at the site and building a larger structure on the 19,000 square foot property. Dufty said the project has the potential to address neighbors' concerns about drug use and other illegal activities that currently take place at the library site.

"This branch library has more problems with nuisance activity

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Gay man fighting fire dept. requests hearing

by Matthew S. Bajko

As he continues to fight the city and San Francisco Fire Department in court, a gay sheriff's deputy has asked the Civil Service Commission to hold a hearing on his allegations that a test given to potential firefighters is biased against homosexuals and alcoholics.

Jon Gray requested on October 21 that the commission schedule a public hearing on what he calls the fire department's "adverse hiring practices." In his letter requesting the hearing, Gray wrote that he is "very concerned that the fire department's examination process adversely affects our gay population."

Claiming there are only five openly gay firefighters in the department, Gray states in his hearing request he wants the larger issue of recruitment of gay men and lesbians into the department discussed. He said he does not want his particular case to be the sole focus of a hearing.

"I think it is just important the fire department have more gays in it," he said.

In August, Gray filed suit against the city and fire department in San Francisco Superior Court, alleging he was passed over for a firefighter position due to his sexual orientation and being a recovered alcoholic. Since 2001 he has raised concerns about gender-specific questions on the fire entrance exam, which he claims are used to weed out gay male applicants.

He has filed complaints with

city and state agencies and decided to file his lawsuit August 12 after investigators with the state Department of Fair Employment and Housing closed his case earlier this year due to lack of evidence.

Fire and city officials have denied Gray's claims. The city has sought to restrict the court case from exploring any issues involving sexual orientation. The city attorney's office filed a demurrer in the case, arguing in court documents that Gray did not exhaust his sexual orientation claims with state agencies and therefore, any reference to sexual orientation discrimination should be stricken from the lawsuit.

"What he is required to do is first go through the Department of Fair Employment and Housing and administratively exhaust his claims with them. Once he exhausted his claims with them, then he can file a lawsuit. Our argument is his sexual orientation claim is not raised with the agency," said Deputy City Attorney Jill Figg.

Figg said the city's demurrer does not address the allegations directly.

"It just challenges the legal efficiency of the complaint. We are not able to put our story forward or dispute the facts of their complaints," she said.

Gray contends he did file sexual orientation complaints with the state agency, but agency personnel failed to include them in his paperwork. Also, because the city refused to turn over copies of the exam to state investigators, the state closed his case, saying there

was not enough evidence to either prove or disprove Gray's claims.

On October 13 Superior Court Judge James L. Warren issued a preliminary order to grant the city's demurrer, but allowed Gray to amend his complaint. Gray filed an amended complaint October 20. Figg said she is in the process of filing another demurrer. The case is not expected to go before Warren again until late November.

The city has also lodged objections to Gray's document requests, stating the information is "privileged or protected by the attorney-client privilege" and it requires the city to "disclose protected personal, private or confidential information about city employees or applicants for positions with the city." Gray has asked the city to turn over all documentation relating to the test it gave in the fall of 2001 in order for him to have his own expert review the material.

Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White told the *Bay Area Reporter* this summer she also would like to review the exam. However, with the matter tied up in court, the test has not been produced.

"I am just trying to get the documents, the test, to have it analyzed," said Gray. "I am going to ask the Civil Service Commission to examine this test and have an emergency meeting or something on the adverse impact to the gay community. They have to do something on this if my sexual orientation complaint gets thrown out."

At press time, a hearing had yet to be scheduled. ▼

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Homeless

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Tenderloin with "the largest concentration of homeless in the entire city, many on the streets for years," said Kayhan. "We have not redeployed outreach teams to the Castro. We are following up with a few of the homeless clients for treatment and housing. At this time our 10-person staff, as much as we're trying to have some success there, to get people off the streets, we're making headway, advocating for additional staff and resources, to broaden our work. Supervisor [Dufty] is advocating for us to do work in the Castro,

but we're constrained by our budget. We recognize that situation exists. It's one step at a time."

Homeless advocates said more outreach is needed.

"For a city of 750,000 people, we need thousands of outreach workers," said longtime queer activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca. "Why aren't there a dozen or 20 outreach workers just in the Castro? I don't blame Human Services. They're underfunded, understaffed, they try to do their best but the resources aren't there."

Kayhan noted that not everyone on the streets is homeless, but declined to be more specific. He did say that DHS has gathered data on almost 600 people on the

streets and that the information will be released soon.

Avicoli Mecca said there's many different ways to look at the homeless issue.

"If you judge the problem by the visibility of homeless on streets, you don't get the full picture," he said. "The issue is bigger than just the Castro. Let's look at the big picture – more mental health slots, drug addiction counseling, affordable housing – that's the essence of the issue not just more people out of the way."

And people living with HIV/AIDS are part of the population.

"Fourteen percent of people with AIDS are homeless," said Avicoli Mecca. "If we're talking about the Castro, what are the AIDS organizations doing about this? That's the question. What's the business community doing?"

On the street

Panhandlers, however, are part of life in the Castro.

A man, who gave his name only as Andrew and who said he was an evicted, former corporate secretary, said he chose the Castro to panhandle because the crowds are "nicer, friendly, generous, and polite."

"Castro residents are much more aware politically than in North Beach or the Marina," said Andrew, 51, who said he's been homeless for eight to nine months. He called the 6th Street and the Civic Center corridor, another area where the homeless congregate, "meaner" and more "hardcore" than the Castro, with more "aggressive" police.

Police agreed with Andrew's general take on the situation.

"It's well known on the street that the Castro is an easy place to score," said the SFPD's Frazer. "People are very generous. They come down to the Castro and prey upon people. People come here from all over the country to be homeless, live on the streets. If they're not hooked on drugs before they come, they get in over their heads. Younger heroin addicts who want the glamour of being homeless – they don't know it's a downward spiral, and unfortunately end up in the criminal justice system – wasted potential."

Frazer said one panhandler explained why he comes to the Castro. "He said, 'It takes me all day in the Haight to make five bucks. I can make that here in one hour.'"

Andrew said police exhibit some sensitivity.

"Police are rather decent here," he said. "They have some degree of compassion. I don't enjoy doing this. If only people knew what we go through. It's a struggle to hang on – mentally and physically."

Recycling center

The recycling center on Laguna Street beside Market Street's Safeway parking lot attracts a line of homeless or people living on the margins, with can and bottle-filled shopping carts who stay to socialize on Duboce Street near the weekly needle exchange.

"It's too easy to be reactionary, easy to say 'shut it down,'" said Peter Albert, president of the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association. "It's a service to the homeless. We want to support recycling, for it to help rather than hurt neighbors. It provides a valuable service for the homeless and the neighborhood. We don't want to be the kind of neighborhood that shuts it down."

Albert said DTNA worked with city officials.

"Rather than deal with the issue in a patchwork way, we got involved with police, and Supervisor Dufty is making the whole situation fit in. How do we as a neighborhood fit into the whole solution?" he said.

Numbers down

Most Holy Redeemer in the Castro has seen a different trend – at least for a few months.

"Our numbers declined over this summer," said Mulcahey, the food program director. "For the first time we were able to seat everyone. Suddenly in June of this year it leveled off."

Mulcahey guessed the leveling off reflected a period of adjustment as people settled into the Care Not Cash system. At any rate it did not last for long.

"As of October 1 the numbers jumped way back up again to a full house every Wednesday," he said.

The church offers a four-course meal to about 120 diners every Wednesday.

Mulcahey favored the city's previous temporary compromise program offering financial incentives – a larger cash grant for accepting services in order to maintain their lives indoors.

"It was easy to get people to buy into it," said Mulcahey, a freelance writer who formerly composed TV soap opera scripts for 20 years. "If you want to live under a bridge, fine, but if you said yes to shelter treatment, you received more money. It seemed to be working."

"We don't know about the 8,000

who were never on GA [general assistance] to start with. GA now provides some perks but it's not a process people like to go through. It's hard to convince them to get eligibility established when they only get \$59 out of it. It's a lot of hoops to jump through to get the pot of gold of only \$59 per month."

Mulcahey formalized the church's bag lunch program. Currently volunteers prepare about 40 bag lunches per day in the rectory. Financial support comes from congregants, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Castro residents, and the church gets a "pat on the head" from the city's Catholic archdiocese, he said.

Pink Triangle Park

Until volunteers removed high plants two weeks ago, 17th and Market's Pink Triangle Park had a problem with people sleeping there.

"We call police immediately if someone is obviously camping out," said Jack Keating who with others spends 10 hours per week maintaining the blue oat grass, rose bushes, Australian fuchsia, locust trees and Monterey Pines, and mowing the lawn surrounding the pink granite pylons that pay tribute to LGBT victims of the Holocaust.

"Last summer we had a problem in one location, we got fed up and called the police three times in one week. We took out the plants to expose it more, for clear visibility. Hopefully we sent them a sign. We're going to keep a close eye on it," said Keating.

The volunteers have also removed graffiti from the walls of the old City Athletic Club 12 to 15 times in the past year.

Collingwood Park

As for the homeless who still sometimes sleep on the dog run and lawn area in Collingwood Park, neighbors should not expect one of the city's four part-time Park Patrol agents to rouse the sleepers.

"Our hands and feet are tied," said 10-year park ranger Paula Gannon of the department, which, for the past year, has provided just one ranger for each shift, and one supervisor to patrol the city's almost 400 acres of park land. The department once had a staff of 24.

"I wish we could," said Gannon. ▼

Swing states

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each other's strength," said Williams.

Other area efforts

According to Williams, several volunteers from last weekend's trip have already made plans to return to Reno this weekend and continue their efforts as the presidential campaign enters its final days before the November 2 election.

Others from the local gay community have been reaching out to swing states as well. San Francisco's Dave Gleba has been working for several weeks to help register LGBT voters and get out the vote in Columbus, Ohio. He will be joined this weekend by AIDS Emergency Fund Executive Director Mike Smith, who said he's excited to help out with weekend rallies and volunteer as an election-day poll watcher in Columbus. San Francisco's Mike Marshall is performing similar efforts in Iowa, another hotly contested state.

Nationwide the Democratic National Committee has reported

a large influx of volunteers from the gay community, and John Marble of the National Stonewall Democrats said that since September, 350 people have signed up to participate in or host participants for battleground get out the vote campaigns.

According to organizers this final weekend offers a host of opportunities to support election efforts. Web sites like swingstates.org and drivingvotes.org detail coordinated group swing state trips to help get out the vote. Williams also suggests phone-banking opportunities through the Kerry campaign and the DNC's Web sites, and for those who can, traveling to critical precincts to volunteer as a poll monitor on November 2.

San Francisco residents Neil Simms and Tim Lucas, who joined the caravan to Reno, feel strongly about this presidential election, and believe that coordinated efforts by progressive-minded people can have an impact on the outcome. Said Simms, "People in San Francisco need to have a bigger sense of the world than just what happens here... than just California. By getting together we can make a difference." ▼



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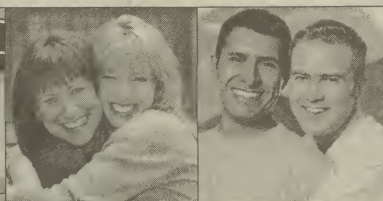
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Census analysis estimates gay, lesbian service members

by Bob Roehr

An analysis of data on same-sex couples from the 2000 Census has produced the first ever estimates of the numbers of gays and lesbians who are serving or who have served in the military. Perhaps most surprising are the differences between men and women.

The report, "Gay Men and Lesbians in the US Military: Estimates from the Census 2000," was written by Gary Gates, a researcher at the Urban Institute and author of the *Gay and Lesbian Atlas*. It was released on October 20.

Gates's report estimates that 36,000 gay men and lesbians are serving on active duty, or 2.5 percent of the total active duty military. Including those serving in the National Guard and Reserves boosts that total to 65,000, or 2.8 percent of all military personnel.

Gay men are underrepresented among active duty personnel, at only 1.4 percent of the total, while lesbians are greatly over represented at 9.3 percent. Many surveys have found that gays constitute roughly 5 percent of the population, with a ratio of about 2 to 1 male to female.

Other striking findings are that lesbians are on average four years older than their gay male counterparts and are more likely to be

white than African American. This suggests to Gates that many minorities are using the military as a way out and to access benefits such as education, while for white lesbians with greater economic options, it is more of a career choice.

"Especially given that it is the opposite for men," Gates said. "The important take away is that there is a non-trivial portion of women in the military that are lesbian. The other story is, given the

had some success with that policy."

There also is evidence that "the policy still filters gay men out, but their service rates are starting to get more similar over time. It suggests that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' has made it a bit easier for gay men to serve. The problem with that analysis is that it doesn't fit for women," according to the report.

Gates acknowledges a possible alternative explanation for the shifts, "It could say something about society changing and being

ing never asked anybody in the censuses whether they are gay or lesbian," said Gates. The question can be even more complicated with young people in their late teens and early 20s who may not yet have a clear sense of their sexual identity and are much less likely to be in a coupled relationship. That population constitutes the greatest portion of those in uniform.

Gates acknowledged, "It is a difficult and challenging question"

counterparts to report military service because under a policy where you are obliged to secrecy, having a partner makes that much more difficult."

"In general, the coupled sample is going to be skewed a little older than the broad gay and lesbian population, you would expect that. But, truth be told, we don't know that for certain, we don't have a simple way to assess the differences between coupled and single gay people," the report said.

C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, called the report an important one because it documents that "The number of lesbians and gays in service today is equal to half the total force strength currently serving in Iraq and is more than twice the 30,000 additional troops the army chief of staff says he needs to fight the war on terrorism."

"There is no doubt that America needs her lesbian and gay patriots fighting on the front lines... they should be able to do so openly," Osburn said.

More than 10,000 members of the armed forces have been discharged under DADT since its passage in 1993. ▼

"It is likely that single gay people are quite a bit more likely than their coupled counterparts to report military service because under a policy where you are obliged to secrecy, having a partner makes that much more difficult."

kind of invisibility of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' you can show for the first time that gay and lesbian people have been serving in the military for as long as we have had a military. Up until this time we have not had the data to prove that."

Gates added, "To the extent that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' was a political compromise between a group that essentially didn't want gay people to serve and a group that did; there is evidence to substantiate that both groups have

more accepting, and gay people feeling they can make these choices" to either stay in the military, form coupled relationships, or report them on a census form.

The analysis drew upon self-reporting of same-sex couples in the census data, the same pool of data that was culled for a recently released study on black same-sex couples. Most experts use this as the best census marker of gays and lesbians.

"An interesting aspect of this is that we derive the estimates hav-

ing to try and figure out how representative same-sex couples are of the gay and lesbian community overall. "The short answer is, it depends on the characteristic you're looking at." On the simple question of geography, they appear to be similar; "where you find a lot of gay couples, you're likely to find a lot of gay people in general."

"But one characteristic they likely do differ on is military service rates," said Gates. "It is likely that single gay people are quite a bit more likely than their coupled

The Urban Institute report is available online at www.sldn.org

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OBITUARIES

Brian Patrick Kevin Fordyce
November 3, 1959 — October 10, 2004

Brian Fordyce will be remembered for his infectious laugh. Brian was never satisfied to accept the easy answer and, in turn, he was able to get people to really think about their point of view on everything from politics to gay rights to the weather. Brian was married to David Kincaid as part of the history-making events at San Francisco City Hall earlier this year. Brian recently completed his Masters in Educational Technology at USF, and was teaching computer skills to kids, K-8th grade, at Star of the Sea Catholic School in San Francisco. He will be missed by his husband, David Kincaid, niece Kelly Cordell, longtime friends Chris Bailey, Sarah Clark, Bea Ahrens and Alex Chiu and many more.

A Memorial Service will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 6th at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco. A celebration will follow.

In lieu of flowers, a scholarship fund has been established at the school where Brian taught. Make checks payable Star of the Sea with a note on the memo line to the Brian Fordyce Scholarship Fund. Mail to: Star of the Sea School, 360 9th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118.

Franklin Mason

June 21, 1958 — October 7, 2004



Frank left this life on Thursday, the 7th of October in San Francisco. He is survived by two sisters, Lynn and Rhetta; his dearest friend Denis Beaulne; confidante Tim Mullaney; devoted care-giver Stephanie Choise; his many buddies in the SoMa (especially the Hole-In-The-Wall gang) Biker/Leather communities; Fr. Josef and his Cather-

ine House extended family; and, of course, his beloved feline companion, Mr. Rainbow.

He was born in old "Virginny" and traveled westward via Florida; Texas; Laughlin, Nevada (where he met the love of his life — Jimmy — who predeceased him); Hawaii, where he raised exotic birds; and finally, Oz By The Bay.

Frank was proud of his Native American roots. He was a skilled Craftsman/Mechanic who could figure out and/or fix anything — a Jack of all Trades. Frank honed his tree-trimming and gardening design skills in the gardens of Catherine's House. He had a green thumb and grew gorgeous house plants. Frank also bowled every Thursday afternoon at Sierra Bowl in Daly City with his best buddies. Frank was a long-term survivor who battled back with grace and grit from great adversity.

Frank devoted much time and service to both the Continuum (in San Francisco) community and Catherine's House, where he was a long-time and cherished Advisory Board member. We all miss him so much. Frank loved to escape City life at this rural (Central Sierras) Retreat/Respite center where he is greatly missed and loved by everybody. Our Frank's remains will be scattered in his beloved Catherine's House Flower garden.

There's a fund-raising Beer Bust (initiated by Frank in his last challenging weeks) at the SF Eagle on Sunday, November 7th from 3-6 p.m. which now will also honor his memory.

Donations in his name may be made to Catherine's House, P.O. Box 53, Sheep Ranch, CA 95250.

Rest well, sweet, sweet Prince. You are forever loved!

John Russell Pieper

September 24, 1945 — June 28, 2004



Died unexpectedly at home from a gastrointestinal hemorrhage. A native of Whitewater, Wisconsin, he obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from UW-Whitewater in

the mid-1960s and moved to San Francisco shortly thereafter. He worked at Photo Mat and Grodins and then for the U.S. Post Office as an operations support specialist for 23 years. He loved the arts and traveled extensively both at home and abroad. Survived by four brothers, two sisters, numerous nieces and nephews and friends. He was cremated, and his ashes were scattered in the Bay. There will be no service. Memorial contributions may be made to the Irving L. Young Public Library, White-water, Wisconsin.

Besides the arts and travel, John loved to hang out in The Castro on the weekends, especially at Harvey's and The Badlands where his sunny smile and warm, loving personality will be missed by those fortunate enough to have known him. Travel on, gentle soul.

Curt Rocha

Curt Rocha, a long-term HIV survivor whose fierce will to live was exceeded only by his love for family and friends, died unexpectedly on Oct. 14, 2004. He was 43.

Curt was born in Modesto and spent his life in California and Texas, with San Francisco his home for the past 25 years. He was office services manager at the law firm LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, where he worked 15 years. Curt was an award-winning needlepoint artist, a remarkable cook and a friend to many. He was sunny, uncomplicated and caring, and he gave his love unreservedly. The world is a sadder place with his passing.

Curt is survived by his partner of nearly 12 years, John Batteiger; his mother, Carol Perkins of Modesto; brothers Robert Perkins of Modesto, Sean Perkins of Burlingame and Alex Perkins of Modesto; nieces Tawny, Brianna, Mariah and Savannah Perkins; and nephews Kenneth, Robert Jr., Sean and Zachary Perkins.

A celebration of Curt's life is planned for 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St.

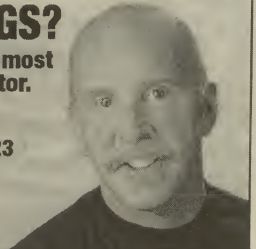
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Christian club sues UC Hastings

by Matthew S. Bajko

An evangelical student group at the UC Hastings School of Law in San Francisco is suing the university for banning it from campus because it refuses to allow gays, lesbians, and non-Christians as members.

The Christian Legal Society filed a civil rights lawsuit last Friday, October 22 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in San Francisco against officials at Hastings for refusing to recognize the Hastings Christian Fellowship, the campus chapter of the legal society. The student group has refused to agree to a nondiscrimination policy that would require the group to admit homosexuals and non-Christians as members and officers.

The Alliance Defense Fund, the same fundamentalist law center that sued San Francisco officials for marrying same-sex couples, is representing the Christian club. ADF recently won the right to join in the same-sex marriage cases presently before San Francisco Superior Court, arguing it does not have faith in Attorney General Bill Lockyer to defend the state's prohibition against gay marriage.

"UC Hastings has apparently

decided to withdraw itself from the 'marketplace of ideas,'" said Benjamin Bull, the alliance's chief counsel. "What's next? Will they require a vegetarian club to admit meat-eaters or a Democratic Party student group to admit Republicans?"

A spokeswoman at the college said Tuesday, October 26 that since Hastings had not been served with the lawsuit yet the school would have no comment.

Though the Christian group bans gays and non-Christians as members or elected officers, the club argues it does not bar people from attending its meetings or participating in discussions. The group informed the university that it does not object to the portions of the nondiscrimination policy that forbid discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or sex.

Based on its religious beliefs, the club does object to the policy regarding sexual orientation.

"Permitting people to join HCF who disagree with the group's beliefs and goals would contradict and undermine their purpose," said Bull. "The Supreme Court has ruled repeatedly that student organizations have the right to determine their own membership."

The court's most famous ruling

in this matter involved the Boy Scouts, which it said had the right as a private organization to ban homosexuals from its ranks. However, gay legal groups have filed lawsuits in California's courts arguing that private country clubs and other organizations cannot restrict membership from same-sex couples.

The two fundamentalist groups suing Hastings have also filed suit against Pennsylvania State University officials for their decision to deny recognition to that school's Christian Legal Society chapter, which refused to sign a nondiscrimination policy similar to the one at Hastings.

Lack of official recognition from Hastings denies the group numerous benefits, including activity funding, advertising in school publications or on campus bulletin boards, use of campus facilities, and access to all services offered by the Office of Student Services.

"Requiring HCF to agree to the policy to obtain benefits holds them hostage by using their own beliefs against them," said Greg Baylor, director of the legal society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom. "The policy is unconstitutional and discriminates against those who hold sincere religious beliefs." ▼

said he will also be tracking the results of antigay constitutional amendments in 11 states, congressional races, and various ballot measures.

In 10 of the 11 states facing a constitutional amendment on marriage, this is the first time a gay issue of any kind has been on the statewide ballot. States facing ballot measures on partnership

rights for same-sex couples and their children are Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oregon, and Utah.

All of the election results will be projected at the event and will also be live and available on Taylor's Web site at www.ggreg.com/election. ▼

Election night

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our community," explained Taylor.

Along with presenting the results of San Francisco's local elections, where LGBT candidates are running for supervisor, BART, and the board of education, Taylor

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Fair game: Male bonding in flag football

by Jim Provenzano

Gay flag football teams converged on Atlanta earlier this month for Gay Bowl IV – the Atlanta Bowl Flag Football Tournament, in which seven teams met both on the field and at social events.

Flag football is one of the many sports scheduled for Chicago's Gay Games VII in 2006, the first time the sport has been included since the fourth Games in New York.

Teams are comprised of seven players each, in contrast to American football's 11 players per team. Instead of tackling, players rip a strip of fabric, usually attached with Velcro, from a ball carrier's belt.

Despite this difference, it's still a rigorous sport. Practices and tournaments make for serious competition, but provide a convivial social outlet as well.

Kevin Brown of the host team, Atlanta Thunder, helped organize the tournament and has played since his team's beginnings six years ago.

Like some players, Brown had not played football in high school or college. "The skill level is broad, from those who've never played to about two-thirds who've played football before," he said.

Social events for the Atlanta Thunder often include some

fundraising activity, added Brown. Of the \$21,000 they raised, 40 percent came from car washes, bar events, auctions, and individual donors.

Road trips to tournaments in other cities bring players even closer together, said Brown. "It's like a fraternity road trip, complete with hazing," he said.

Darrel Bayani, coach of the San Francisco Shockwaves, said that road trips bring teammates together in ways that practices don't. "We see sides of each other we hadn't seen before," he added with a grin. "When you're forced to be together, you bond."

Shockwaves members who gathered at a San Francisco bar for a fundraiser a week before the tournament put in extra hours to help their team, but also met potential new players. As a college football game played on the TV over the bar, quarterback Len Gonzales talked about his favorite aspect of the game. "I prefer the strategic positioning, getting everyone onto the same page. It's like playing chess. I love that."

Gonzales played tennis when he grew up in San Diego and didn't play flag football until his years at the University of California, San Diego. When he began seriously playing flag football, he became a quarterback "by default," he said. "Most larger guys play defense."

Do some players hope to find men with similar interests for dating? With a boyfriend who is not on the team, but is supportive, Gonzales acknowledged that romance may happen between other players, but not for him.

"It's such a small community," he said. "We're beyond that – the idea that to be gay you have to be promiscuous."

Shockwaves' coach Bayani confirmed that flag football brings people together mostly for the sport. That includes Andy Choi, one of the team's straight members.

Choi played football as a cornerback in high school, with a lot of flag football afterward. After moving to the Bay Area four years ago, he was approached by Shockwaves players while he was casually playing near the team's practice area at a local park.

Choi said he didn't realize that the team was mostly gay. "I started picking it up after a few weeks," he said, after hearing some players jokingly refer to each other as "bottom" and "bitch." He's been playing for three years now and has learned more than a few things about gay slang. But he also learned that gay men who play flag football break stereotypes.

For author Dan Boyle, the competitive, personal, and romantic aspects of his years playing flag football inspired his novel, *Huddle*, about a fictional West Hollywood flag football team.

Boyle's novel includes players who face various dilemmas in their lives. A few of the characters who are teammates struggle with mutual attraction. Boyle said both friendship and romance can happen in a team sport, but agrees that there might be a self-imposed taboo among some athletes.

"When I first started playing, a couple of guys were boyfriends," he said. "It can have an impact on playing. Some might pick favorites based on who they're sleeping with."



Flag football players at a recent tournament in San Francisco.

Jim Provenzano

For more info

www.atlantathunderfootball.com
www.sfs shockwaves.org
www.huddlethenovel.com

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Intersex

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work and socializing with old friends, as the city is like "a second home" to her and the site of some of her first organizing.

"The trip has been incredibly useful, and I've also had a good time. It feels very much like I'm catching up with family," Mitchell told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Since the rise of intersex activism – a very vocal movement consisting of many who say they are worse, not better, for enduring childhood procedures meant to ease the social discomfort of adults – some medical organizations have reversed their views on the benefits of early genital surgeries.

At the HRC hearing last May, for instance, a University of California, San Francisco pediatrician testified that it was rare for unnecessary surgeries to be performed, and that his sense was that more and more institutions across the country had similar standards.

But activists testified that the medical community's definition of what is acceptable is quite different from a patient's experience. Surgeries do not have to be extensive to be unnecessary, they said, and interventions do not have to be surgical to be traumatic. As intersex children, they said, their lives were marred not by their conditions but by the shame and secrecy surrounding them. Every-

thing from excessive genital exams to unwanted and inappropriate hormonal treatments have followed many intersex people into adulthood.

Cameron, for instance, who is housing Mitchell during her stay, says his activism is complementary to hers in that his unwanted medical interventions occurred when he was older, and consisted not of surgery but of testosterone to make him more masculine (Cameron has Klinefelter's syndrome, a chromosomal makeup of XXY). Like Mitchell, he identifies as neither man nor woman, or sometimes, a mixture of both, and says he wishes his body had been allowed more freedom to reflect that reality.

Further making use of her time here, Mitchell and Cameron, joined by other activists, gave a presentation to the HRC last week about non-binary genders. Within a legal framework that recognizes and protects the right to identify and live as either male or female, they explained, there is an emerging population – from intersex as well as non-intersex communities – for which there are no protections.

Mitchell, who reclaimed her birth name as her middle name and sports a facial beard, claims a non-binary identity specifically to recognize that sex and gender are not always congruent, and that doctors did not surgically create a woman when they altered her clitoris at the age of 8.

being hot."

But players on opposing teams may be fair game. Boyle met an opponent who was rough on the field, but at a team dinner after that tournament's final, the handsome player licked cake icing off his fingers.

That's a move that won't be in the playbooks. ▼

For more columns, visit
www.sportscomplex.org.

The Intersex Society of North America and other advocates often point out that most of their members do have a firm gender identity in male or female categories. This message keeps the advocacy focused on stopping unwanted medical procedures, as some worry that the concept of blurred gender lines could actually further terrify hetero-normative parents into trying to "correct" their child. Yet many intersex advocates agree that the roots of such interventions are homophobic, even if subconscious, in that success stories are defined by growing into a non-visibly-different person who can have heterosexual intercourse.

One more thing on Mitchell's San Francisco agenda is an educational presentation to the psychology department of California Pacific Medical Center next week. A counselor herself, Mitchell said her activism and public education efforts are "a part of my own therapeutic journey," and her focus is on improving the experience for intersex adults who seek professional help.

"I would like to develop a framework, to educate people so they can help adults deal with their childhood trauma," she said.

Mitchell said that re-focusing her anger and grief allows something positive to come from her negative experiences. "We can't change the past," she said, "but we can certainly work toward changing the future." ▼

Transgender poet to read in Berkeley

by Kevin Davis

His colleagues have flogged thesauri to give Frank Paino's poetry embarrassingly broad compliments and now Paino will give his first reading in seven years, and his first since transitioning from poet Frankie to poet Frank, at the University of California, Berkeley next week.

Paino discussed by e-mail with the *Bay Area Reporter* the influence and rejection of girlhood Catholicism, his work's gothic mix of sex and spirituality, the evolution of his craft, and his refreshingly brave, smooth, and speedy transition into himself.

In girlhood Paino enjoyed linguistic rhythm and words' multifaceted interpretations.

"It was natural for that to translate into my poetry in the sense that I have a marked tendency toward the lyrical," he said. "I use words to help me paint the pictures I might otherwise produce on canvas."

His poetry's erotic, fatal, and ecclesiastical imagery represents the impact of hearing dramatic, romantic high Roman Catholic mythology in his formative years.

"While I long ago rejected its teachings, I am, nevertheless, grateful for the grounding it gave me in all of those strange tales of saints, demons, sinners, and many of the biblical tales as well," said Paino.

"When you think about it, showing kids the figure of a broken, bleeding, half-nude man on a cross is bound to make some sort of impression."

But, while the church censors or downplays its mix of blatant sexuality and the divine, Paino views them intertwined.

"We are sexual and spiritual beings and a number of my poems try to point that out, to revise some of the myths with a view towards making the characters more human and engaging rather than cold and unfeeling," he said.

He laid out the changes and challenges in his writing practice.

"When I first started writing, before I really knew anything



Poet Frank Paino

about the craft of poetry, I would write four or five things I thought were poems every day. I definitely had the 'spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings' down pat but I hadn't the slightest grasp of what it means to 'recollect in tranquillity'!"

However, he studied the ins and outs of writing poetry with esteemed precursors while earning a master's of fine arts at Vermont College.

In the 1990s Paino took a six-year hiatus from writing to care for his ailing mother and in November 1997, underwent gender reassignment.

On the common issue of procrastination, he said, "It seems any time I am going to sit down to start a poem I discover it's terribly important for me to go clean up an oil stain in the driveway that's been there for about a year. Or I need to clean the gutters. ... Once I do get a poem going, however, I become completely absorbed in the work."

Paino went through hormone therapy and surgery in isolation, without even one fellow transman or woman in his town, much less a large local transgender community to support his transition.

"I did get in touch with a few other guys on the Internet and they were very helpful in recommending surgeons, etc. One of them has become a good friend of mine," he noted.

After a complete deprivation of

transman media representation, the motivated Paino got the ball rolling right away once he discovered the possibility of change in the summer of 1997, at age 37 while viewing the trans documentary *You Don't Know Dick*.

"I was enthralled! Elated! There on the screen were all these guys who had once been trapped in the wrong body." He found changing body configuration "absolutely amazing."

"I got on the Internet the moment the show ended and started researching the process. I wanted to learn what I needed to do to get myself into the right body."

Within five months Paino had

the first of his two surgeries in San Francisco.

"The first surgery was not really incapacitating and I was able to walk around in the city for a few days. I was so impressed with the openness of the people as well as the beauty of the Bay Area."

With his self-described "androgynous" appearance and viewed as "masculine" by coworkers, Paino said his local community has responded with blasé encouragement.

"A number of colleagues have told me they respect and admire my decision to transition. There have been one or two people who have had a negative reaction – but

these are people I don't even know. I heard about their 'problem' from someone else," said Paino, who works at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio as the media services manager.

His twin sister "has become one of my greatest champions," he said. "Once she saw that people were treating me well – and with respect, she was put at ease." ▼

Paino will read at UC Berkeley' popular "Lunch Poems" series Thursday, November 4 at noon in the Morrison Library in Doe Library on the Berkeley campus. Admission is free.

Hate crime

◀ page 2

rape her," said Tina D'Elia, hate crime survivor counselor at Community United Against Violence, referring to one of the victims. D'Elia was present in court on Monday, along with the Asian Women's Shelter and victim witness assistance program staff, the survivors' friends and the defendant's father and sister, when the survivors made their formal impact statements.

"It was a very vicious and violent attack. The emotional impact is still with them. They were shaking and crying," D'Elia said, adding that Pink Saturday, the Dyke March, and the morning of Pride will always mark the anniversary of the hate crime for them.

Kirchner was also ordered to pay restitution for any medical bills the survivors incurred for physical injuries and time lost from work.

One of the survivors, Cat Stevens, spoke with the *B.A.R.* this week. She suffered two black eyes, and a severely lacerated nose that required four stitches.

"My whole face was swollen really bad," said Stevens. "There was blood everywhere."

"I wrote something out," Stevens said of her impact statement. "I had to or I would have been a

mess. I wanted it to be for the judge and Bryant to hear how he changed my life, how violating and humiliating it was. It happened on my Pink Saturday in my community. My view on the city has changed. The city doesn't feel like the safe haven it was."

"I don't feel safe. I view things differently. If I simply hear a jogger behind me, see a man walking across the street, walking down the street with my girlfriend, there's a fear. You don't trust anyone. How will I be perceived?" Stevens said.

Kirchner had an opportunity at the October 25 hearing to make a statement but chose not to.

"I don't know if he would say he's sorry," said Stevens. "I think he just pled guilty to get out of jail. Yesterday was the finale. From June 27 until yesterday, it was hanging in the air. It's closure, but it's bittersweet. He's out now. He has these things on his record."

D'Elia said there was a hero in the incident.

"If it were not for the transgender male who was hit and restrained the defendant until police arrived – that was how they arrested him on the spot – so we have a queer hero," she said.

Barge applied Penal Code Section 422.75, which adds a range of years in state prison, at the court's discretion, for attempting to commit a felony because of the victim's protected status such as that

based on gender identity or sexual orientation, or because he perceives that the victim has those characteristics.

"We could have had him plead to a couple of felonies, but we felt it was important to show that hate crime was what motivated him, it closely represented his conduct," said Barge. "He admitted the reason [for the assault] was to deprive them of their constitutional right."

The district attorney's office said evidence in the case was strong.

"Basically when someone pleads bargains the evidence is so strong that they don't want to risk going to trial," said Debbie Mesloh, Harris's spokeswoman. "You're saying 'I'm guilty, I accept these charges.' Six months in jail is a pretty strict sentence for a first-time offense."

"It was a stupid 3 o'clock-in-the-morning thing," said Barge. "Alcohol was involved. It was tragic for everyone involved."

Barge had praise for the defendant's attorney, Cheryl Wallace.

"I will say that she did everything a good defense attorney should," said Barge. "She was probably instrumental in getting him into anger management."

Wallace did not return a call from the *B.A.R.* seeking comment; her office said it doesn't respond to media requests.

Four antigay hate crime cases are currently pending in the DA's office, Mesloh said. ▼

AIDS services support



San Francisco Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval, left, received the Community Pillar Award from Positive Resource Center Executive Director Brett Andrews at the organization's annual benefit October 21 at the Hotel Monaco. Sandoval was recognized for his work in securing general fund money for the agency when federal funds were cut earlier this year. Said Sandoval, "I'm proud to give something back." Other honorees included the Bay Area Reporter; health department workers Maria X. Martinez, Joseph Cerece, and Eric Ciasullo; and Sarah Thompson from City College of San Francisco.

Library

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than any other, second only to the main library. We could offer a facility which would be more of an asset," said Dufty. "It's an under-utilized parcel."

The joint venture would also mean better access to both the library and historical society's archival materials.

"The collection is so significant we want to have more people have access to it," said Underwood. "We would have a significant portion of the Hormel Center moved from storage in the main library to the Eureka Valley library. It could include having a scholar study room where a person researching a person like Harvey Milk would have access to archival material right there and go upstairs to view and access what the historical society has."

Better synergy?

The venture could also create better synergy and increased cooperation between the historical society and the library. In the past, overlapping programs have bruised egos and caused friction between the two institutions.

"When two organizations work

closely together there is bound to be a little bit of friction," said Kissack, who added that currently "the main library and society have a positive and productive relationship. That is what I think is so promising about what is being proposed."

In 2002 the historical society moved into a 7,500 square foot space on Mission Street in the Yerba Buena Arts District. The offices are equipped to allow for climate control of the archives and the space has three exhibit areas. Its lease expires in 2006, at which time the new location in the Castro could be nearing completion.

A move into the library also has the potential to answer some of the society's financial problems. In 2003, due to the state's economic downturn, the society lost a three-year operating grant from the California State Library and slashed its budget from \$320,000 to its current \$160,000. Its executive director, Susan Stryker, resigned and the board eliminated several staff positions. Kissack, who came on board this June, and another employee work part-time to manage the day-to-day operations and rely on volunteers and board members.

"I feel we have weathered the storm. The seas are still rough; I don't want to say we are not without any challenges. The commit-

ment of the board, staff, volunteers, and our membership has been amazing and is the force which will carry us through," said Kissack. "With a partnership between a community-based organization and a library, the potential is enormous. Already our archives are used by scholars around the world. I can see that kind of programming, research, cultural production finding a much larger audience if we were able to partner with the library."

Board members and volunteers agree and are excited about the potential a move to the Castro could hold.

"It is something we are really excited about as a prospect, but obviously we are a long ways from signing on the dotted line," said board member Don Romburg. "We see ourselves as an underutilized and unique resource that right now has a really low visibility in the community. If we were able to have a location in the Castro like that it would attract traffic of tourists and many more locals than currently see the amazing archives and exhibits we have been putting on for the last 20 years," he said.

Added Nancy Norstad, a volunteer, "I think it is fabulous. It will be more accessible and more people will come to it." ▼

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For more information, please download a copy of our Parent ACTION proposal request at our website at www.fk5d.org as of October 21st. Applications are available in Spanish, English and Chinese, but should all be returned in English. Should you need more information, you will find times on our website for orientations to the grant in a neighborhood near you. You can also call Patri Erickson, Parent ACTION grant program manager at 415-557-6584, email perickson@ckcf.org.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

The Department of the Environment's mission is to improve, enhance and preserve the environment and promote San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability.

The Department of the Environment seeks volunteers and interns for helping in the office and in the field (415)554-6390.

STATEMENT FILE A-0279610-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Priscila Janitorial Service, 2976 24th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Carlos Arta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-29-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-29-04.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541570

In the matter of the application of Leonid Krivopalov for change of name. The application of Leonid Krivopalov for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leonid Krivopalov has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Leonard Gestrin. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541572

In the matter of the application of Rita Ravindra for change of name. The application of Rita Ravindra for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rita Ravindra has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rita Addante Ravindra. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279714-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: RM Promotions, 547 Alvarado St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Rafael Monterrosa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10-01-04.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541566

In the matter of the application of Jennifer Karen Roof for change of name. The application of Jennifer Karen Roof for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jennifer Karen Roof has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jennifer Katherine Roof. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279418-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cooks Boulevard, 1309 Castro St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Malcolm Haar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-10-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-21-04.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279215-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Farah Smoke Shop, 2345 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ismail Ahmad Karajah. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-13-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-13-04.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

Department of Human Services Request for Proposals #289 Dear Potential Applicant

The Department of Human Services is requesting proposals from qualified agencies and individuals interested in contracting to conduct a program evaluation of the Community Jobs Program (CJP). This includes descriptive, qualitative and quantitative elements; the evaluation will describe how the CJP functions and how well it has achieved the program goals and objectives.

The contract will be for the period of 12/27/04 to 6/30/05, for an amount in the range of \$40,000 to \$50,000.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFHHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFP packets and subsequent updates will also be available on the City's website. Go to [HTTP://SUNSET.CLSFCA.US/PBIDS.NSF](http://SUNSET.CLSFCA.US/PBIDS.NSF) and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2004 at 10:00 AM at 1650 Mission St, Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Joseph Huang, at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2004 at 4:00 PM.

10/28/04
CNS- 739816#
BAY AREA REPORTER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO CASE # PES 04-286622 NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE:

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Barry Martin Hershkoff. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Lanny Jay in the Superior Court of San Francisco, 400 McAllister Street, SF, CA 94120. The Petition for Probate requests that Lanny Jay be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act.

This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action. The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held on November 15, 2004 at 9:00 am, Dept: Probate, Room: 204 Superior Court of California, 400 McAllister Street, SF, Ca 94102. If you object to the granting of the petition you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or contingent creditor you must file a claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Lanny Jay, P.O. Box 297, Monte Rio, Ca 95462-0297, 707-869-0759.

OCT. 28, NOV. 4, 11, 18 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279812-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Guido's Trucking, 1601 Burrows St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Marcial A. Guido. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1-1-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10-06-04.

OCT. 14, 21, 28 NOV. 4 2004

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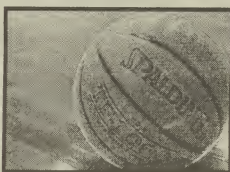
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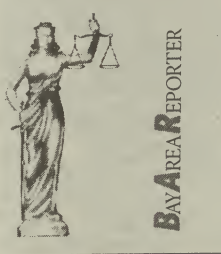


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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0279872-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: N & S Janitorial Services, 305 Hyde St.
#607 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This busi-
ness is conducted by an individual, signed
Nagi Mubarez. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
10-07-04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
10-07-04.

OCT. 14, 21, 28 NOV. 4, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE # CNC 04541576

In the matter of the application of
Trisa Rose Klipp for change of name
and gender. The application of Trisa
Rose Klipp for change of name and
gender having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application
that Trisa Rose Klipp has filed an ap-
plication proposing that his/her name
be changed to Joshua Trisarose Klipp
and to change gender from female to
male. Now therefore, it is hereby or-
dered, that all persons interested in
said matter do appear before this
Court in Department 218 on the 7th
day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of
said day to show cause why the appli-
cation for change of name should not
be granted.

OCT. 21, 28, NOV 4, 11, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280041-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Rich Soenksen Design 1994 Alemany
Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This
business is conducted by an individual,
signed Rich Soenksen. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 10-15-04. The statement was
filed with the City and County of San Fran-
cisco, Ca. on 10-15-04.

OCT. 21, 28, NOV 4, 11, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279931-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: StabilitySafe Holdings, SafeStable
Workspace, Trepsinoux Group, 534 Spruce
Street San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This
business is conducted by a corporation,
signed Myron H. Marshall. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-
ness name or names on 10-12-04. The
statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10-15-04.

OCT. 21, 28, NOV 4, 11, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE # CNC 04541606

In the matter of the application of
Sara Jane Paul for change of name.
The application of Sara Jane Paul for
change of name having been filed in
Court, and it appearing from said ap-
plication that Sara Jane Paul has
filed an application proposing that
his/her name be changed to Sara Paul
Malan. Now therefore, it is hereby or-
dered, that all persons interested in
said matter do appear before this
Court in Department 218 on the 21st
day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of
said day to show cause why the appli-
cation for change of name should not
be granted.

OCT. 28, NOV 4, 11, 18 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279888-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: QTVNEWS, Gay Getaways 12 Avalon
Ave. #3 San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This
business is conducted by an individual,
signed Clarence Swiggins. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 10-08-04. The statement was
filed with the City and County of San Fran-
cisco, Ca. on 10-08-04.

OCT. 28, NOV 4, 11, 18 2004

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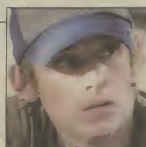
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Medley of Bay Area music reviewed
Jazz piano with Brad Mehldau; rock out
with Goldfrapp; SF Symphony and more.
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Hot-blooded teenagers
'Undertow' thriller looks
at young men in poses.
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Why 'Superman' actor
was a hero to the disabled.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 34 • No. 44 • 28 October 2004

HORROR OVER THE RAINBOW



James Whale's *Bride of Frankenstein* owes much to the filmmaker's gay sensibility, and features a queenly mad scientist. Harry Kümél's *Daughters of Darkness* centers on a pair of lesbian vampires.



SCARY MONSTERS ON DVD FOR HALLOWEEN

by David Nahmod

Here's a pair of DVD releases especially for the Halloween season. These two horror classics have a definite queer slant!

Bride of Frankenstein (1935) James Whale is regarded by film buffs as the greatest director ever to grace the horror genre. Whale made history by giving life to the Frankenstein Monster (Boris Karloff) and for being the first filmmaker in Hollywood to be blacklisted for being openly gay.

Bride of Frankenstein is his masterpiece. A sequel of sorts to his '31 classic *Frankenstein*, *Bride* owes more to Whale's queer sensibility than to the earlier film, or to the Mary Shelley novel upon which the first film was based.

The film opens in 1818, when we meet the *Frankenstein* author (Elsa Lanchester, herself the real-life bride of gay actor Charles Laughton). It seems that Shelley's story did not end where her book did, and she proceeds, amidst a raging storm, to tell the rest of the tale.

The film's story is simple. Henry Frankenstein (Colin Clive), newly married and trying to forget the creature he created in the previous film, finds that not only is his Monster still alive, it has learned how to speak and wants

page 48 ►

WINE, WOMEN AND WRONG

ALEXANDER PAYNE SEES LIFE 'SIDEWAYS'

by David Lamble

Homosexuality usually rears its perplexing head in a film by Alexander Payne only to further complicate the lives of his already troubled protagonists. In *Election* (1999), a two-way race for student body president of an Omaha high school acquires a third candidate when the lesbian sister of the school's popular quarterback decides to challenge him at the polls, in retaliation for his stealing her girlfriend. In *Citizen Ruth* (1996), Ruth (Laura Dern) finds her desire to have or not have her baby blocked by same-sex agendas involving pedophilia and lesbian goddess worship. In Payne's new film *Sideways*, Payne and his writing partner Jim Taylor have developed an even more insidious homoerotic subtext to the travel plans of two middle-aged men who are almost drowning in wine and women.

In an astonishing, Oscar-worthy performance by veteran character actor Paul Giamatti, Miles is a morose elementary school English teacher who has tied what remains of his ego and self-respect to the publication of an overly long, autobiographical novel with the slightly risible allegorical title *The Day After Yesterday*. "You mean today?" a potential girlfriend asks, meaning to be helpful.

As we learn in *Sideways*' side-splittingly funny first act, Miles is a man beyond help. Miles sabotaged his first marriage with a woman who has now remarried,

page 43 ►

Miles (Paul Giamatti) and Jack (Thomas Haden Church) go wine-tasting around Santa Barbara in the new film *Sideways*.



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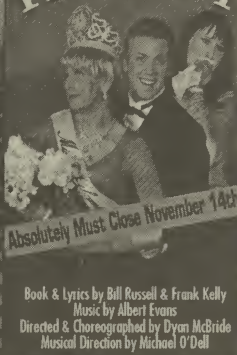
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Electoral collage

Count all the monsters and vote!

by Roberto Friedman

It's pretty safe to say that if the **Arrogant Monster** now occupying the White House is tossed out on his scabrous ass next Tuesday night, there will be wild, gay dancing in the streets of San Francisco. In fact, some "professional party people" are already planning to ensure insane celebration happens if and when the **Dangerous Imp** in the Oval Office finally gets his walking papers.

"We're going to close down Castro Street at 18th St. on Election Night," inspired instigator **Greg Taylor** told us. "It's going to happen anyway, I'm just here to put some production values into it. The best spontaneity is always planned."

Twelve lo-on years ago, when the **Elder Bush Goblin** was defeated at the ballot box by **Sir Clinton the Slick**, the Castro crowd cheered themselves silly during Pop's concession speech, breaking out into a rousing chorus of, "Ding dong, the **Wicked Witch** is dead!" Expect the return of that apt refrain if the **Overlord Cheney** and his baby demon **Dubya** are finally vanquished by democracy on Tuesday.

Taylor & crew will set up a live video feed on big screens at the Castro's Ground Zero as the votes are tabulated. There will be ambient music, LGBT speakers, and video greetings from the good with **Lady Bunny** and other gay high-lifers. It all sounds like an evening of solidarity, even if our world is falling apart on us. Greg promises, "It's either going to be the biggest celebration in 12 years, or we'll be sending out the message that we're not going away." Expect massive media either way.

While we're in the gayest neighborhood on Earth, can we just say this about the Castro Theatre: We've always supported the lively mix of programming on offer at the movie palace. The Castro is home to our communities' film festivals, premieres, and great revivals of classic films. Sure, you can always rent the DVD of *Dr. Strangelove* and sit on your sofa, but believe us, it ain't the same as seeing the restored print up there on the giant Silver Screen, as part of the rowdy Castro audience.

We hope the drama over there resolves itself, because along with an awful lot of people, Out There spends many an evening in the cinematic cathedral. Maybe rather than politicians or commissioners, we need our programmers to program.

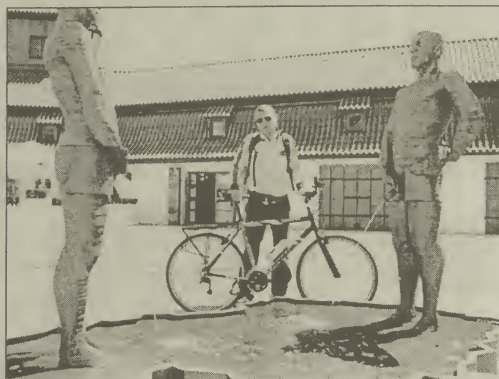
Hot heads

So much hotness in the media, our column head is spinning!

• Horrible conservative columnist **Ann Coulter's** fearsome, feral face finally met pie last week, pelted her way by two members of "**Al Piedad**." We'd say it was a rendezvous with dessert destiny long overdue.

• The blatantly bigoted **Traditional Values Coalition** threatened country-music star **Wynonna Judd** with a boycott because of her plans to perform on a lesbian cruise ship. The TVC wants to turn the clock back, but it can't be done.

The great thing about this item is that the print edition of the NY *Post's* "Page Six" column original-



Actor Liev Schreiber on the water-sports tour of the city of Prague.

ly identified Wynonna as actress **Ashley Judd's** mother, before it was corrected in the online edition. Mother! That's got to hurt an older sis.

• Top Nigerian soccer player **Nwankwo Kanu** wears his hair in neat and sexy braids. But the conservative Nigerian government soon put the kibosh on that. A Nigerian official told the sports press, "In the developing world, the braiding of hair and earrings have a sense of homosexuality." Referees in the country's youth championships were told to reject players with hair in braids. Ever backwards to the Dark Ages!

Spritz appeal

Variety spin-off *VLife* has the inside scoop on thespian hotness "**Liev Schreiber's** Prague." "Hot off his turn in [the remake of] *The Manchurian Candidate*, the actor shares his passion for Prague, where he's shooting his directorial debut, *Everything Is Illuminated*," based on **Jonathan Safran Foer's** first novel.

Sharing a passion for a major metropolis is all very well and good, but why is Liev's Prague illustrated by a color photograph of sculptor **David Vaura's** pair of ever-urinating statues near the Charles Bridge? They're peeing right into the fountain, for Pete's sake! There Liev is, standing hotly between the flowing waters. OT says: If golden showers are truly Liev Schreiber's Prague, we'd like to see what Liev Schreiber's Trieste consists of.

• Corrections boxes for other newspapers: In its interview with author **Alan Hollinghurst**, winner of this year's Man Booker Prize for his fourth novel *The Line of Beauty*, the SF *Chronicle* mistakenly referred to Hollinghurst's third novel as *Spell*. Its correct title

is *The Spell*.

East meets West

Ultra drag celebrante **Heklina** called us up to fill us in on her part as an extra in the video for the new **Scissor Sisters** single "Filthy Gorgeous," shot in a theatre in Times Square that used to be a strip club called The Zipper Room.

The video, directed by **John Cameron Mitchell**, was based on the theme "Justify My Love Shack." Splice the **Madonna** song together with the **B-52's** ditty, and you have some idea of the vid's party-down spirit. NYC drag celebs **Flotilla de Barge**, **Sweetie**, and **Charlotte Rae** (she was **Mrs. Garrett** on the '80s sitcom *The Facts of Life*) met and mingled with the SF contingent: **Hekles** and notorious cohorts **Juanita More**, **Kennedy**, **Suppositori Spelling**, **Jordan L'Moore**, and **Peggy L'eggs**.

"The shoot was brutally long. It was seven hours between party scenes, while they shot the band. So everyone got totally drunk, but everybody from NYC & SF got along." Alas, the hot theatrical lights burned a hole in **Heklina's** \$300 custom-made party-dress. Glad it was captured first by the cameras.

Ana Matronic, the only biological girl in the **Sciss Sissies**, first made her mark right here in SF, at Trannyshack. She called in from their British tour to assure Hek she'll be back in SF for the Miss T'shock pageant coming up on Nov. 20. The annual contest promises to be *quel* event: porn mogul **ChiChi LaRue** has confirmed as a judge, and she'll be bringing some Falcon men with her.

"Filthy Gorgeous" was produced for rotation on MTV Europe, but hopes are high that it will get some American airplay, maybe on late-night MTV2. Matronic said the song pays tribute to drag queens who taught her the meaning of the word *filthy*. We're scared. ▼



Heklina and Scissor Sister Ana Matronic at the video shoot in NYC.

Feeling the 'Undertow'

With director David Gordon Green

by David Lamble

In *Undertow*, a feverish, almost Gothic thriller that should gather new fans to the cinema of director David Gordon Green, a hot-blooded teenager, Chris Munn (Jamie Bell), is running away from the consequences of his own impetuosity. Leaping from a bridge to avoid the fury of a red-neck father's shotgun and mean hounddog, the boy's bare foot is punctured by a rusty nail. Now, if Mel Gibson only had Southern boy Green's sense that crucifixion is a drug best taken in small doses, I might have gotten down with *The Passion of Christ*.

Green's three films (*George Washington*, *All the Real Girls*, *Undertow*) are an antidote to everything Hollywood turned out in the '90s, which, unlike that nail in a 17-year-old foot, is no accident.

In person, Green is as unpretentious as the T-shirted boys who populated fellow Texan Richard Linklater's *Slacker*: boys who look like they cut their own hair, every five years or so. On the day we meet, Green's burgundy shirt matches his reddish-brown, shoulder-length hair. Boyish enough to be perpetually carded for smokes and beers, Green confesses a lifetime love affair with the cinema poetry of Terrence Malick (especially *Days of Heaven*) and junk TV. *Undertow* can be read as an upscale *Dukes of Hazzard*. He claims to have read only three novels all the way through. One of them, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, he'll be shooting soon. The spirit of another, *Huckleberry Finn*, pervades every moment of his work.

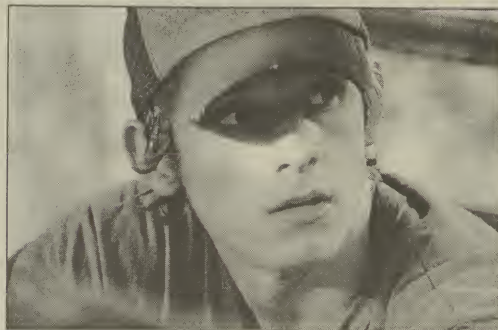
Born in Arkansas, raised in the bland suburbs of Northeast Dallas, Green developed a taste early on for the city's industrial scar: the fast-food joints, X-rated bookstores, Mexican restaurants and detritus that make Dallas' Harry Hines Blvd. feel like Eminem's home-turf on Detroit's seedy Eight Mile Rd.

Green grew up stimulated by friendships formed across racial and cultural lines. As one critic has noted of *George Washington*, in Green's world, it's not surprising to find a 26-year-old white guy trading love stories with a 13-year-old black kid.

Real pains

Remember, we still have that 17-year-old boy hanging around with a nail in his foot. The gory scene, filmed so vividly it's hard to sit through, was designed to jumpstart the film. "I've had that happen, and it didn't feel good," Green says in an accent he describes as pure mutt: part Arkansas, part Texas, part North Carolina, where he went to film school, and part Georgia, where he shot *Undertow*.

"I'm really interested in very unremarkable pains. It's not supernatural, it's just a nail in the



Jamie Bell plays Chris Munn, a teenager who gets a nail in the foot.

floor in your foot. It breaks the skin, and it hurts. I'm more interested in that sense of pain and horror than I am in Freddie, with his burnt face and his five fingers."

Undertow was designed to give audiences a superheated action film that avoids the Hollywood clichés of porno violence, as opposed to the sweaty, awkward kind of physical action that leaves a big impression on growing boys. "I've been involved in fights, and when you hit somebody, it hurts your fist."

Green hired actors with reputations, then confounded audience's expectations of them. Josh Lucas plays the bad-seed uncle who detonates the life of his farmer brother (Dermot Mulroney), who's trying to raise two sons, the teenage Chris (Bell) and his skinny-waif younger brother (amazing newcomer Devon Alan).

"When I met with Josh Lucas, I wanted to bring the other side of his character out, to put brown contacts over those pretty blue eyes and have him be the horrific opposite of what he'd done before. Not the funny, charming Southern guy, but a guy who could slit your throat."

"Jamie Bell, I really admired his performance in *Billy Elliot*, the physicality and the emotional range and depth. When it came to cast this movie, I was looking for the Southern version of that kid until I decided to go to London and meet the real deal. There was no question: he'd grown up a little bit, and was looking to put the toe-shoes away, and get a nail through his foot."

Green's films portray how young men act in packs and posses. So far, the only hint of a queer subtext has come in a throwaway line or physical gesture.

"That's a fascinating subject. In some of the most redneck, racist, hardcore Southern living environments I've been in, there's this rooted, almost homosexual tension in relationships with these guys. It's just like who's got the biggest cock, who's sucking in their chest, and who's ready to take their shirt off to fight. It's that kind of weird exploration of masculinity that I'm interested in. A lot of it's just insecurity that a lot

of guys have with their own masculinity."

Green is putting the finishing touches on a script called *Goat*, in which fratboys haze pledges, including sexually. He says he's going to try and be frank, go for some male-on-male erotic contact. "It's about fraternity life. It's an adaptation of this memoir this guy wrote about hazing. It explores the American university fraternity system, and how pretty interestingly sexual those guys get with each other."

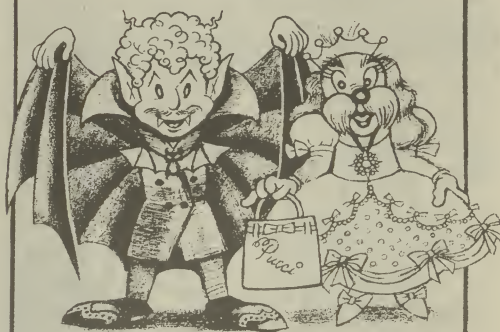
"I don't know how explicit we're going to get with it. There are certainly some homosexual overtones throughout the movie. Honestly, I want it to be as aggressive and as eye-opening as it should be." *Opens Friday.*

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Gifted jazz artist, solo on the keys

Brad Mehldau remains true to his roots in SF Jazz appearance

by Philip Campbell

Pianist Brad Mehldau's SF Jazz concert at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre last Friday made it official: at only 34, he has already achieved the star status and fan base of a much older artist. With an intense and generous two-hour set, he also proved the extravagant press surrounding his young career is deserved and mostly unexaggerated.

He has a true touch of genius, and it was on ample display for the large and appreciative crowd. He received the kind of respectful

attention and grateful ovation that is usually reserved for classical soloists. It was thoroughly appropriate, even in the context of a jazz festival.

Mehldau is a serious musician, obviously grounded by a solid and disciplined early training. His superior technique allows him the security to devise some of the most dazzling improvisations I have heard since Keith Jarrett first stunned the jazz world in the mid-'70s.

Teachers like Kenny Werner, Junior Mance and the quietly superb Fred Hersch have strengthened his jazz chops, but Mehldau

remains true to his roots, sometimes frustratingly so. There are times when I would like him to cut crazy loose and maybe even risk an ugly dissonance or ragged edge. His facility and control are so awesome, he doesn't need to forever rein himself in.

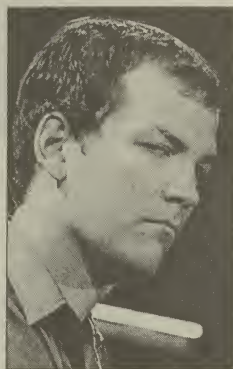
On a bare stage, dressed in black and softly illuminated, Mehldau opened with a quiet Lennon & McCartney song. Slowly moving into a deep and characteristic meditation, he provided a gentle introduction to an evening that would eventually run the gamut of emotions, and practically chart the entire history of Western music.

There were no missteps in the varied playlist. The arch of the performance was thoughtfully modulated, and Mehldau helpfully gave us the courtesy of naming the compositions after he played them.

The major highlights came from the songs of Radiohead. Simple statements of the tunes were deconstructed with ever-widening explorations. Monumental ostinatos supported fragmented shards of everything from Brahms to Rhythm & Blues.

Swing line

Mehldau can swing when he



Mehldau swings when he wants to.

wants to, but he rarely gets too down or dirty. His innate sense of good taste avoids the funkiness that used to inform some of Jarrett's inspired inventions. Still, he manages some credible Gospel and stride licks now and then, and if they seem more clever than heartfelt, I don't doubt his sincerity.

Mehldau's soul is more apparent in his own compositions. He was sparing with them on Friday, but they are where his feelings really transcend his intellect. Fold-

ing one of them into a medley with a song by Antonio Carlos Jobim granted a gemlike insight to his personality.

Sometimes Mehldau starts in left field and then backs into a recognizable melody. More often, he employs a sonata-like form: a statement of theme goes to variations, and then returns to Earth again.

He can also treat a song with the utmost tenderness. His lovely "On the Street Where You Live" by Lerner & Loewe was performed almost unadorned in a simple, elegant arrangement that was quite touching.

It must have been an exhausting evening for Mehldau, but he seemed calm and pleased when he finished. His humility at the privilege of appearing in a festival with so many other gifted artists was a gracious testament to his own remarkable talent. There is little doubt of his right to be among their ranks.

Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba is appearing at the Herbst Theatre Friday, Nov. 5, with his Trio. Like Mehldau, he is a brilliant improviser with an almost mystical voice, but he is slightly more earthy and raw. The SF Jazz Festival is giving piano freaks an uncommonly good season. ▼

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'Sentimental' journey

SF Symphony tackles John Adams work

by Philip Campbell

The first San Francisco Symphony performances of two major modern works made Davies Hall the place to be for music-lovers during the past fortnight. In both instances, it was a case of better late than never.

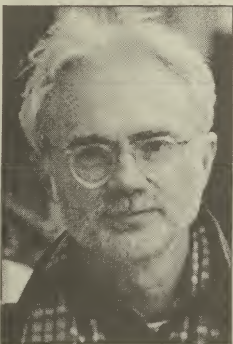
John Adams is an American based in Berkeley, and arguably the most respected and innovative writer of his generation. As former composer-in-residence and author of two wildly successful commissions for the SFS, he has gracefully matured since his start as a charter member of the Minimalist movement.

If anything, he is a Maximalist these days. Operas, oratorios and a dizzying array of chamber and symphonic works have been steadily evolving into an instantly recognizable personal style.

He has retained his most notable virtues, too. There is a wit and user-friendliness to even his most ambitious scores, and his gift for shimmering and evocative orchestrations remains unique.

The recent debut of Adams' *Naive and Sentimental Music* might have proved a bigger event had it not premiered in Los Angeles five years ago. Dedicated to the LA Philharmonic's Esa-Pekka Salonen, the huge piece was recorded by them, and is already known to most Adams fans. It is also uncharacteristically complicated compared to most of his other works.

Guest conductor Alan Gilbert has the necessary credentials for tackling such an endeavor, and he made all 50 minutes count. He could not convince me, however, that this might not be the first Adams piece to require a little pruning. It is a symphony of



These days, Adams goes maximal.

tremendous weight, jam-packed with interesting ideas. It is also bulky, and becomes ponderous at times.

The composer must have realized there might be some confusion. He made a speech before the performance, but despite his pleasant explanation, he went on too long. It only signaled possible problems.

A jaunty pop-inflected opening tune suggests an optimistic hero embarking on an adventure. That much is clear. Unfortunately, Adams lets his story meander. His models may be the likes of Sibelius and Bruckner, but the results lack the clarity of the former and the architecture of the latter.

The slow movement is typically transparent, and the use of a steel-string guitar adds color to the string writing. The final section is dense but readily understandable, in a reversion to more Minimalist style. The overwhelming effect of the whole orchestra playing full-throttle is thrilling.

Naive and Sentimental Music is

undeniably impressive, though repeated listening to the disc and the live performance have not altered my opinion. I think it would benefit from editing.

The audience responded enthusiastically. I suspect they were feeling some gratitude. They had listened with courtesy, and now Midori's rendition of the Beethoven Violin Concerto, after intermission, moved closer. That probably explained why there were so many empty seats during the first half.

Midori's performance was predictably accomplished, and I have always marveled at her strong tone and flawless technique, but it was Adams' opus that was on my mind in the days that followed.

Spring time

The week before, Benjamin Britten's big, bright and infectious *Spring Symphony* finally got a hearing at the SFS. Conductor Robert Spano led the orchestra, Symphony Chorus, Pacific Boychoir and San Francisco Girls Chorus in a sparkling presentation.

More of a cantata than anything else, with three soloists joining the choristers in an assortment of texts, the work is a true symphony in form only. The composer's wonderful sense of pacing and theatrical flair combine for a most delightful experience.

The performance was handled with relish, and the SFS Chorus came close to stealing the show yet again. There was some worry that the show might not go on at all. A temporary breakdown in contract negotiations with Union singers was making everyone nervous. Let us hope for a satisfying outcome. The Chorus is a treasure worthy of fair consideration. ▼

THEATRE

Dreaming of a 'White Christmas'

Director Walter Bobbie brings film to stage

by Richard Dodds

Can we soon add *White Christmas* to the list of such holiday perennials as *A Christmas Carol*, *The Nutcracker*, and *The Messiah*? A Broadway team is hoping that a new stage adaptation of the 1954 movie will eventually spread out across the land, and San Francisco audiences will be monitored for their holiday-cheer levels after seeing the show at the Curran during its seven-week run beginning Nov. 3.

"If we find that we have really created something that is of interest to an audience," said director Walter Bobbie, "then we'll figure out the next part. There's a lot of interest in the show as a seasonal event in many places. Maybe we'll franchise it. We just don't know yet."

Bobbie, whose career skyrocketed after directing the revival of *Chicago*, knows that adapting a well-known movie for the stage is not without peril. Consider the Broadway fates of *Singin' in the Rain*, *Saturday Night Fever*, and *Urban Cowboy*. And Bobbie himself directed the unsuccessful stage version of *Footloose*.

"It's difficult," he said of the screen-to-stage process. "People come in with certain expectations. But if you worry about everything, you'll never get anything done. And the opportunity to get Irving Berlin music on the stage, especially during the holidays, is not an opportunity you turn down easily."

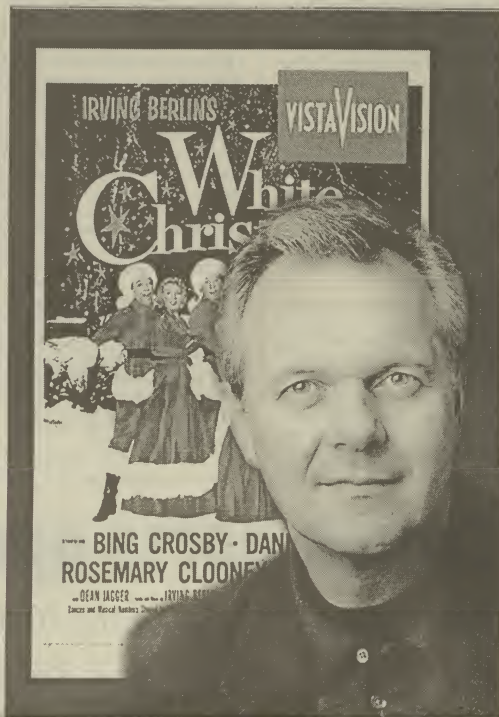
The production is expanding the film score with additional Berlin songs to help tell the story of a couple of Army buddies who put on a show to save their former commanding officer from ruin. He now runs an inn in Vermont, where a lack of snow means a lack of customers.

In the movie, Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye played the buddies, and Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen were the women in their lives. At the Curran, it will be Brian d'Arcy James, Jeffrey Denman, Anastasia Barzee, and Bay Area actress Meredith Patterson in these roles. Charles Dean, another Bay Area actor, plays the general-turned-innkeeper.

"I think San Francisco has a smart and sophisticated theater audience that seems to be open to new things," Bobbie said. "And once we knew we were going there, I thought we should really try to find some local people to be a part of the show. I wanted a sense that this wasn't just a bunch of New Yorkers coming in and trying out their show."

White Christmas was first put on the stage in 2000 as a summer attraction at an outdoor amphitheater in St. Louis. Playwright David Ives, best known for *All in the Timing*, used the St. Louis adaptation as the basis of his considerably reworked version.

"The movie is actually a very difficult thing to adapt," Bobbie said. "The film starts in a war zone, and then jumps all over the



Bobbie says the story of *White Christmas* has a human, not religious theme.

place before landing in Vermont. I'm happy with the way that David has honored the film and all of the significant events, but has somehow allowed it to have a smarter motor."

The story, Bobbie said, has a human rather than religious theme, despite the Christian holiday mentioned in the title. "I think the great Christmas stories, other than the birth of Christ, have very little to do with religion. Christmas brings out the best in people, whoever they are. There is no gratuitous nativity scene."

Bobbie has worn many theatrical hats since arriving in New York at the start of the 1970s. "I did five Broadway shows as an actor in the first two years that I was there. I was in the original cast of *Grease*. I've never had to be a waiter."

Playwright Christopher Durang gave him his start as a director, and he drew major attention for the Rodgers and Hammerstein revue *A Grand Night for Singing*. He cemented his directing career when he became artistic director of *Encores!*, the series that presents staged concerts of seldom-seen musicals. It was there that he first directed *Chicago*, and he continued with it to Broadway, where it is still running after eight years.

"It changed my life," said Bobbie, who lives in New York with his partner of 14 years, David Frye, a tenor with the Metropolitan Opera. "I have a real life outside the theater," Bobbie said.

He goes directly from *White Christmas* to the much-delayed revival of *Sweet Charity*, now starring Christina Applegate. There was so much uncertainty about

the production that the SF *Best of Broadway* series finally scrapped plans to bring it here. "I'm disappointed about that," Bobbie said.

But he still has one show coming to San Francisco and another headed to Broadway. Meanwhile, he occasionally shows up on *One Life to Live*, as a character given to dastardly deeds. "I used to think, 'Can I ever act again if I start directing?' But I decided, 'Whatever comes up next, that's what I'll think about.' I feel very privileged that I've had all of these opportunities at such a wonderful level."

Short scenes

• Old love, new love, true love, and some love of the cheating kind are among the themes explored in *Significant Others*, a collection of five short plays about gay romance beginning performances Nov. 5 at the New Conservatory Theater Center. All the pieces are by local playwright (and occasional theater critic) Tom W. Kelly and directed by Alan S. Quismorio. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

• Meanwhile, in New Conservatory's large theater, *Pageant* has been held over for a second time. The beauty-contest satire is now scheduled to run through Nov. 14.

• Theatre Rhino is reviving Terry Baum's *Two Fools*, first seen in 1996 and made newly timely by the gay-marriage debate. In the comedy opening this week, cultural and personal differences, not to mention the INS, rear their heads as a Costa Rican and an American lesbian try to set up housekeeping in San Francisco. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Mark Morris strikes out

Weird West Coast premiere at UC Berkeley

by Stephanie von Buchau

I'm constantly being asked by dance fans, "Why is Mark Morris considered so musical?" And I always answer with the following story. When Cal Performances presented Morris' emotionally scary *The Office* a few years ago, I went to Tower Records to get a CD of Dvorak's *Bagatelles*, a piece of music I'd never heard before. The clerk fixed me with an odd look and asked, "What is going on? You're the third person to buy that music this week."

What was going on was Morris' musicality, not just his ability to set movement to music in a kinetic, thrilling manner, but his ability to choose music in the first place that is exalted by his chore-

ography. From Bach and Handel to Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell, Morris' musical choices have seemed not only appropriate but inspired. Until now. The first week of the annual Mark Morris Dance Group residency at UC Berkeley produced an old favorite, Cowell's *Mosaic & United*, beautifully danced and played in all its microtonal splendor by members of the MMDG Music Ensemble.

On the other hand, the West Coast premiere of *Violet Cavern*, with a commissioned score by Nu Jazz trio The Bad Plus, produced not only a headache (they are amplified) but the jaw-dropping realization that, for the first time since I've been watching Morris make dances, he's made one that is flat-out pretentious. What does the title refer to? A woman's private parts? A Korean karaoke bar? Or just a clever phrase as meaningless and dreary as the 45-minute work itself?

Morris hates it when you try to find "meaning" in his work, but it is there 99% of the time. It's subtle, it isn't written in stone, but a Morris dance usually ignites not only your feet and groin, but your brain. In this case, groin never engaged; feet had to wait until the last 15 minutes, when the dancers stopped lounging about in fashionable, angst-ridden poses and

got up off the mat to dance, fer crissakes; but the brain was pounded, assaulted and raped by the worst original score ever set by a major musical choreographer.

Violet Cavern was received by the UC audience with rock-concert cheers and whoops. I don't like to play the generation card, especially since I grew up with rock 'n' roll and still love the old bands, but this group sounds as if it is deliberately pandering to youth. They are loud, with a manic, amplified drummer who nearly drove my disgruntled companion from her seat. And she's a Mark Morris idolater.

Loyal flush

It wasn't until the next morning when, searching frantically through the press materials for an anchor of some kind, I realized that The Bad Plus' pianist was Ethan Iverson, formerly Morris' music director. That explains a lot. Morris is a loyal colleague, and, like his ex-boss, Iverson is some-

thing of a genius, still in his 30s and able to play any kind of music convincingly, as well as arrange and compose. The other two guys are bassist Reid Anderson and percussionist David King.

The Bad Plus has released two CDs and got reviews from raves to this negative rant from critic Bill Milkowski that sums up my feelings exactly: "Never before in the history of jazz (or even pseudo-jazz) has a band played so little so loud for so many and gotten so much — hype, that is." From the slow-pounding piano intro to the amplified drum climax about 10 minutes into the piece, the dancers spent most of the time recumbent. Ennui seemed to be the order of the day. If only Morris had done something unusual with these unpleasant noises, *Violet Cavern*'s first half-hour wouldn't have felt so much like Merce Cunningham droppings. As much as I loathed John Cage's so-called dance scores, I'd have 10 times rather listened to two hours of



'Violet Cavern' felt like an assault.

Canfield than 45 minutes of The Bad Plus.

It was so difficult to watch "the dance" with that infernal noise going on, at least until Morris got everybody on their feet and moving, that I have few visual impressions. One that stuck, and seems the motto gesture, was a repeated promenade by an upright dancer holding the arms of two others scooting flat on their backs on either side of him. The recumbent dancers seem like an airport people-mover on which the upright dancer was gliding. Very clever, very arresting, but hardly enough to carry 45 minutes of The Bad Plus. ▼

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by Stephanie von Buchau

In 1858, just after he finished his monumental *Les Troyens*, composer Hector Berlioz wrote: "It matters little what happens to the work, whether it is ever performed or not. My musical and Virgilian passion will have been satisfied."

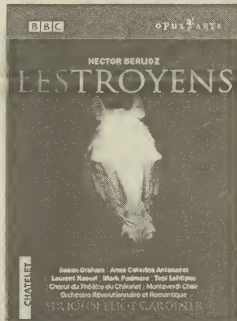
Prophetic as ever, Berlioz heard only a truncated, badly performed version of the last three acts of this

five-act *tragedie lyrique* based on Virgil's *Aeneid*. He never heard the first two acts at all; the complete opera was first performed over two evenings in Karlsruhe in 1890. These circumstances, basically financial rather than artistic, gave rise to some myths about *Les Troyens* which finally died as a result of the Berlioz bicentennial year of 2003.

A new DVD of the complete opera from Paris' Theatre du Chatelet, with a major international cast and a "period" instrument orchestra conducted by John Eliot Gardiner, may be the most important operatic document in years because it shatters two of the most pervasive *Troyens* myths. The complete five-act opera is not impossibly long; it is just over four hours. And it is not divided into two parts: a weak, shorter prologue in Troy and a longer "real" opera in Carthage; in fact, both parts are approximately the same length and, at least as seen in this performance, the Trojan section is every bit as powerful as the Carthaginian one.

San Franciscans should be interested in this Parisian presentation because when she first arrived here, Pamela Rosenberg announced that *Les Troyens* was her favorite opera and that she would stage the full, five-act form. The work had been presented at SFO in 1966 and '68, with Regine Crespin as both Cassandra and Didon, necessitating — or least justifying — severe cuts to the first two acts. *Troyens* has now been postponed until the 2007-08 SFO season, after Rosenberg departs, though she will cast it before she leaves. Alice Coote is rumored to be the Didon.

The presence of Crespin, a great, impassioned singing-actress, is what made the first SFO presentations work. Luckily, this Paris performance also has a diva, not as Didon, but as Cassandra, to remind us that Berlioz did not ever write inconsequential music. Anna Caterina Antonacci sang only once at SFO, in the summer Rossini Festival of 1992. She was



unsettled then as to whether soprano or mezzo-soprano was her true vocal métier.

A dozen years later, she's stopped struggling with that, and become instead a magnificent tragedienne, in the manner of Anna Magnani or Jeanne Moreau. Beautiful, statuesque, fluid of movement, impassioned of expression, yet singing as well as I've ever heard her, her Cassandra is heroically mesmerizing. This is the woman who can predict the future, but has been cursed so that nobody believes her predictions.

Gut busting

Antonacci dominates the first two acts so powerfully that she overshadows the excellent performance in Carthage, with Susan Graham as Didon and Gregory Kunde as Eneas. These two Americans are handsome, graceful on stage, and sincerely committed to their roles. They sing their gut-busting parts with stamina, attention to musical detail and good French diction, but they are clearly opera singers, whereas Antonacci is Cassandra. It's a subtle difference, highlighted when Gardiner performs the "original" finale in which Cassandra returns at the very end to prophesize once more. If you need further confirmation, Antonacci easily gets the biggest, most prolonged ovation. French opera-lovers are not fools.

next page ►

FILM

Conspiracy theory

'The Manchurian Candidate' at the Castro Theatre

by David Lamble

Director John Frankenheimer and screenwriter George Axelrod purchased the rights to Richard Condon's novel *The Manchurian Candidate* for a song, because the idea of making a film out of a book that posited the conspiracy of all conspiracies — a Russian/Chinese Communist plot to assassinate an American Presidential candidate, engineered in collaboration with a Joe McCarthy-style right-wing Senator and his Lady Macbeth of a wife — seemed too preposterous and risky for Hollywood, which hadn't yet ended the blacklist. But through

the grapevine, the filmmakers heard that Frank Sinatra wanted to play Major Bennett Marco in the worst way. *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962) plays the Castro Theatre Oct. 31-Nov. 3.

Major Marco, arguably the singer's best role in a nonmusical film, in a funny way mirrored Sinatra's own image. Marco is an American tough guy who is careful not to let you see his tender side. Like John Wayne, Sinatra never saw real combat, but he projected an image that transcended that of the guys who actually fought.

The film's main theme is that America's almost psychotic reaction to Communism was based at

least in part on deeply felt sexual anxieties. A telling scene has Major Marco fighting a Korean manservant (Henry Silva) in an apartment-wrecking karate match. What may have been the first martial arts scene in a Hollywood film later inspired a lunatic parody in *The Pink Panther* series.

Before feminism and gay liberation, conservative cultural critics used to warn that American men were being emasculated by "Momism." *The Manchurian Candidate* is an X-ray of the worst possible mother-son relationship, showcasing two career performances: Lawrence Harvey as the arrogant Raymond Shaw, and Angela Lansbury as Raymond's cas-

trating mom. One cannot say enough about Lansbury's riveting creation of the woman behind the throne, who pushes her men over the brink. Particularly hilarious and timely is a scene where Lansbury bullies her hubby Senator (James Gregory as a right-wing "empty suit") at the dinner table, providing the original model for the "ketchup lady."

Sinatra had been a real-life friend to John F. Kennedy; the film hit theaters just as Kennedy confronted the Cuban Missile Crisis. A year later, Kennedy's assassination would cause Americans to see Raymond Shaws lurking everywhere. No conspiracy was unimaginable. ▼



Sinatra plays Maj. Bennett Marco.

Sideways

◀ Arts cover

and to add to his humiliation, is having that man's child. On the eve of what he fears will be the final rejection of his novel, Miles agrees to join his one-time college buddy Jack (veteran TV actor Thomas Haden Church) is brilliant in a comic sidekick role that 15 years ago would have had Nick Nolte's name all over it) for a trip through the wine country near Santa Barbara. Miles is looking forward to a little golf and the chance to lord it over Jack in wine-tasting rooms.

Girl magnet

Jack, about to marry the rather dull daughter of a wealthy Ar-

menian immigrant, has other plans. Eleven years removed from the days when he played a horny young doctor on a popular TV soap, Jack is still a formidable girl magnet, a skill he tries to share with Miles. Payne explains that he and Taylor, trying to be faithful to the spirit of Rex Pickett's comic novel, decided to give the boys a motel bedroom scene where Jack playfully wrestles Miles into an admission about whether he's gotten it on with the pretty waitress Maya (Virginia Madsen).

"It's in there as a gag. Obviously these are two straight men who can't fuck each other, but there's a level on which they want to. So when Jack says to Miles, 'I'm going to get laid before I get married, Saturday. Do you get me?' Miles balks at that and Jack says, 'No, no,

This is something we should share.' Since they can't have sex with each other, men bond by having sex with a woman and talking about that experience."

Paul Giamatti got rave notices for his slump-shouldered portrayal of the sad-sack cartoonist Harvey Pekar in *American Splendor*. With Miles, he provides more nuance to a character who has devoted much of his life to spitting in the wind. At first, you wonder how Miles and Jack ever met.

"We were freshman roommates at San Diego State," Miles confides to Maya during a long, soulful conversation on how good wines age like people. Maya, more poet than wine snob, has a line

that will be quoted in reviews from coast to coast. "A bottle of wine is actually alive — it's constantly evolving and gaining complexity. That is, until it peaks — like your '61 — and begins its steady, inevitable decline. And it tastes so fucking good."

Miles' body language improves only when he's fingering a wine glass as if it were a woman's body part and issuing reviews like, "Tight as a nun's ass!"

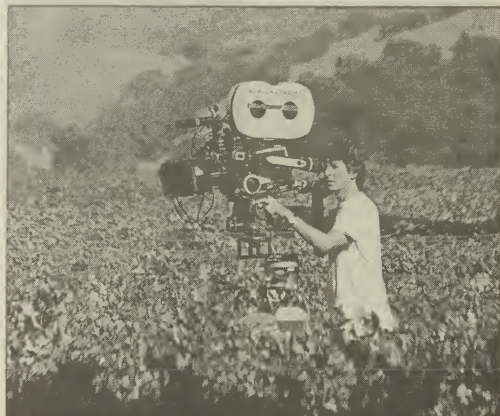
Hole in one

Payne admits that directing *Sideways* forced him to endure prodigious amounts of wine and golf. He still hates golf and provides a couple of *Caddyshack*-

quality golf jokes as his revenge.

Unlike so many contemporary comedies, *Sideways* doesn't lose its sense of humor in the third act, a scene that involves raunchy sex and a satirical swipe at Bush and Rumsfeld. Over-the-top humor — a man pouring the contents of a wine-spitting mug over his head — is balanced with the bittersweet — the same man sneaking a sip of his prized bottle of '61 under the table at a fast-food restaurant.

Finally, this is an adult comedy about male friendship. In a classic scene, as four people are enjoying a robust meal with their wine, a buddy thinks to ask his sodden friend, "You didn't drink and dial? Don't go over to the dark side." ▼



Director Alexander Payne staked out a place in the vineyards for his film.

Les Troyens

◀ previous page

Yet the rest of the production is very pleasing. Though Greek director-designer Yannis Kokkos throws in a few spots to current European operatic taste — timeless costumes with occasional camouflage and trenchcoats — his colors are attractive, and the clothing flatters the singers, especially the chorus, which often looks terrible in these quasi-modern stagings. I couldn't quite figure out the set. It seems to be a flat forestage with a large mirror that reflects at an angle upstage, making the crowd scenes seethe with physical movement. The Trojan horse's huge head breaks through the upstage mirror.

Kokkos manages the high contrasts on stage — violent war scenes next to pastoreale serenity

— as cleverly as Gardiner does in the pit. The narrow-bore brass, period timpani and gut strings of the Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique add a fresh aural quality to Berlioz's High Romantic concept. Richard Springer's choreography is lyrically unobtrusive, with naked-to-the-waist Trojan gymnasts cavorting in the first act.

Give the Chatelet credit for not stinting on the supporting cast, including Laurent Naouri (Nabab) and Ludovic Tezier (Chorebe), two of France's sexiest baritones, and tenors Mark Padmore and Topi Lehtipuu in the two gorgeous tenor solos for Iopas and Hylas. This BBC-Opus Arte DVD (3 discs; 5 hrs., 12 mins.) also includes an illuminating, hour-long documentary by Rainier Moritz on *The Trojans, a Masterpiece Revisited*. It's going to be a long wait until the 2007-08 SFO season. ▼

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Down but not out in London

Fans await news of injured singer Marc Almond

by Mark Mardon

Soft Cell singer Marc Almond, 48, is reported to be in critical but "stable" condition following a serious car-motorcycle collision in the City of London on October 17, in which Almond was the motorcycle passenger. The singer's fans worldwide await further reports of his progress while maintaining hope that the brilliant auteur who penned and sang the lyrics, "Tragedy/Take a look and see/I'm laughing in the face of adversity" will soon be singing like his old self again.

Almond last appeared in San Francisco at Audrey Joseph's Club Universe in June 2002 during Pride weekend. With his thick, sensuous lips, boyish pout and bedroom eyes, attired in designer-chic ensembles and punk rags, Almond has appeared on the covers

of countless music/pop-culture magazines, starting in 1981 with NME [New Musical Express] and nearly every year thereafter on such titles as QX International, Boyz, Gay Times, Record Mirror, Noise, Melody Maker, Attitude, Rogue and Kaleidoscope. Over the years, Almond's fans have followed not just their idol's musical evolution, but his physical changes, as tattoos increasingly covered his thin arms, and he fleshed out from tall, skinny youth to svelte, sexy crooner.

Almond's unique look has inspired portraits by a host of visual artists; his likeness has appeared as a jacket painting by Mark Maxwell, a ceramic mask by Linda Maria Oberg; an "Action Marc" toy by Binky; a "Marc Goes Down to South Park" rendering by Ann Michaels; and a classic Marc doll by Varvara Skripkina, now on exhibition at the St. Petersburg Doll

Gallery.

According to *The Theatre of Marc Almond*, the artist's official website

(www.marcalcond.co.uk), vocalist Almond and keyboardist Dave Ball formed Soft Cell in 1979, influenced by glam, punk, disco, and electronica. The group achieved huge success between 1981 and '84 with a string of Top 5 hits including "Tainted Love," "Torch," "Say Hello, Wave Goodbye," "Bed-sitter" and "What." They sold in excess of 10 million records worldwide, and influenced musicians from Pulp to Blur, The Pet Shop Boys to The Divine Comedy and contemporary electronic acts like Goldfrapp.

Solo turns

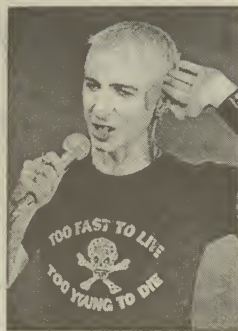
After the duo split in 1984, Almond and Ball pursued successful solo careers for 17 years while remaining in contact. Almond's 10 solo albums include *Mother Fist*, *Open All Night*, *Torment & Toreros*, *The Stars We Are* and *Non Stop Erotic Cabaret*. His songs address love, loss of identity, globalization, fast-food culture, manufactured pop, the prostitute in all of us, sleazy celebrity desperation, cynical media manipulation, mid-

dle age and midlife crisis, madness, addiction and isolation.

Almond's recent releases include a three-year project, *Heart On Snow*, and an album of Russian songs featuring a cross-section of Russian singing stars and musicians. This year, Almond's book *In Search of the Pleasure Palace - Disreputable Travels* was published in paperback by Sidgwick & Jackson. Almond describes the book as "part biography, part travelogue, part fact, part fiction, part whatever!" He asks: "What happens to people like me who were once 'pop' stars? Am I destined for a life of daytime television appearances, reunion tours and well-meaning strangers struggling to recognize you before hesitatingly asking, 'Didn't you used to be Marc Almond?'"

Almond has continued to perform regularly, both singing live and working as a DJ, playing electro and electro-clash, fast becoming, in his words, "the Godfather of the scene."

Soft Cell re-emerged when Almond and Ball began writing together again as a duo in the late '90s. The fruit of their labors, *Cruelty Without Beauty*, their first studio album in 18 years, was re-



Almond has always had a wild ride.

leased in '02 to critical acclaim.

Alas, a Soft Cell US tour in late '02 in support of the album proved problematic. Many US promoters and bookers canceled shows due to slow ticket sales. The band salvaged about half the tour, playing to solid crowds in LA in New York.

The end of 2004 marks Almond's celebration of 25 years in music, a wild ride for all involved. "Here's to the bruised and the broken-hearted," Almond sang to his fans in "Beautiful Losers" from *Open All Night*. The song's final line sums it all up for him and his kind: "When we die, we're gonna go dancing at that nightclub in the sky."

Get-well sentiments can be emailed to thinkingofyou@marcalmond.co.uk. ▼

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Utopia live

Goldfrapp's concert DVD

by Mark Mardon

Clubgoers know a great anthem when they hear one.

Countless anthemic masterpieces have marked the dance scene since its inception, from Sylvester's "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)" to Gloria Gaynor's "Never Can Say Goodbye." Such is the power of these songs that as a clubgoer, you can't help but break from your cocktail conversation and flow onto the dance floor, moving with the music's irresistible vibe. A few years ago, a new, exotic vibe seemed to come to the clubs out of nowhere, featuring one of the most tantalizing, exquisite female voices on the scene, a soaring, soul-piercing soprano with a smooth, downtempo languidness and sultry, perfectionist art-school sensibility.

The song "Utopia" by Alison

Goldfrapp and Will Gregory riveted the underground club world's chill spaces, as did "Paperbag" and other beautifully crafted electronic songs.

The British sensation Goldfrapp has now released a 2-DVD set, *Wonderful Electric: Live in London*, showcasing vocalist Goldfrapp and keyboardist Gregory in spectacular concert settings, including live in the open-air courtyard at Somerset House in July 2003, and live in '01 at Shepherd's Bush Empire. The DVDs feature tracks from the Goldfrapp albums *Felt Mountain* and *Black Cherry*.

The visual record of Goldfrapp in concert is priceless. If you've only heard the songs without seeing the artists in concert, you're missing half the fun. The Goldfrapp duo puts on a spectacular show, with the latest electronic effects and dance beats overlaid



with mesmerizing vocals. The shows' lighting effects, atmospherics, and costumes all add mightily to the treat of seeing stunningly beautiful, artfully attired Alison Goldfrapp singing with confidence, enrapturing crowds of elated fans.

Each DVD contains an entire concert, followed by documentary material allowing you a backstage, up-close-and-personal view of this mysterious band, one of the great theatrical dance/art-song acts of our time.

www.goldfrapp.co.uk ▼

Vote No on L!

by Will Shank

Who could possibly vote against saving endangered movie theaters? It's kind of like coming out publicly against puppies and flowers. So in the frenzy of voting in November, don't let Proposition L fool you!

Prop L claims to "Save Our Theaters," but in fact, it would hijack \$10 million a year from the City of San Francisco and give the funds to a nonprofit formed by the sponsors of Prop L. It is a misleading scam that seeks to hoodwink voters by playing into their desire to save neighborhood movie theaters. I'm a big supporter of neighborhood theaters, and I have put a lot of energy into volunteer efforts to save them. I believe that San Francisco needs to work hard to save neighborhood theaters, but Proposition L is not the way to do it. That's why the

biggest supporters of neighborhood theaters in San Francisco oppose Proposition L!

The organizers of Proposition L have no track record and no plan. It is an example of our voting system run amok in that, if passed, this measure would divert an incredible amount of money into the pockets of people who have not proven how they will use it. San Francisco cannot afford Prop L, and it sets an extremely bad precedent.

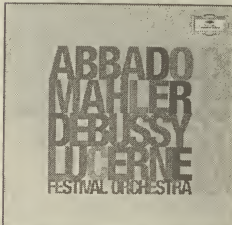
How serious is the concern about Proposition L passing? The entire Board of Supervisors and the Mayor are against it. How often does that happen? The San Francisco Film Society has issued a statement condemning it, as has the San Francisco Neighborhood Theater Foundation, on whose board I sit. We are the people who bring you the outdoor movies in Dolores Park and Washington Square. And we got Sean Penn to film the "No on L" trailer that is now playing in theaters all over town.

I know that the choices we have to make on the ballot can be overwhelming, but please remember to vote, "EL NO!" ▼

Masterfully sculpted Mahler

by Tim Pfaff

Claudio Abbado has long been in the front rank of today's Mahler conductors, and it is hard to imagine his improving on the recordings of the symphonies he made as director of the Berlin Philharmonic. But he has done just that with his glorious new live CD of Mahler's Second Symphony (DG) with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra. (The two-CD set begins with an equally arresting account of Debussy's *La Mer*.) Although the performances date from August 2003, it's equally hard to imagine a better time to get a dose of *Resurrection*. Most of us could use a lift about now.



Aptly called "an orchestra of soloists," the Lucerne Festival Orchestra is a group drawn mainly from the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, with which Abbado has worked extensively, augmented by individual instrumentalists Abbado hand-picked from Europe's top orchestras (including the Berlin Philharmonic) and some noted chamber ensembles, such as the Hagen Quartet and Sabine Meyer's Wind Ensemble. Under a baton less sure than Abbado's, this could be as likely a recipe for disaster as for triumph. But the musicians perform in a way that makes it clear they would lie in traffic for their leader.

The effects are consistently startling. The depth of sound, even at *pianississimo*, can make you shake your head in disbelief. While every one of the musicians in this enormous orchestra is digging out every last bit of expression in each detail in the score, it

never sounds overwrought. Playing this integrated approaches the unearthly, in two compositions that ask nothing less.

Listen to the rhythmic acuity in Mahler's second-movement Andante. It's supremely free yet executed without a misstep. Herbert von Karajan, Abbado's predecessor at the Philharmonic, periodically chastised his players by ending a rehearsal with the announcement that he was off to listen to a jazz band, so he could hear a group of musicians who could play in time. That's precisely what Abbado has here.

The same is true in the eerier ensuing Scherzo, where the orchestra responds on a dime to every shift in the music's labile character. In its final measures, the recording captures some bow and percussion sounds that were new to me, and a tribute to the excellence of the engineering of this live performance.

In a startling move, Abbado goes directly from the Scherzo to the vocal solo movement "Urlicht," a gesture so ineffably right you gasp. Anna Larson, Abbado's preferred Mahler mezzo of the moment, is less acute here than she was in his live Third, but you hardly mind, given the wealth of instrumental activity swirling around her performance.

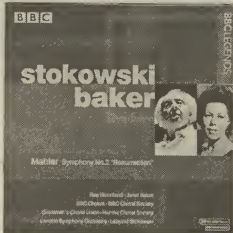
But the outer movements are what make this singular symphony truly great, and in them it is Abbado who astonishes. He remains one of the few conductors to use the kind of *portamento* Mahler would have expected, and its expressive power is felt everywhere. But it is the precision of proportion he lends the score's every gesture that makes these movements so riveting. The music breathes, surges, and heaves, and the silences (and off-stage sounds) are as integral to these enormous statements as the piercing interjections and masterfully sculpted climaxes.

The entrance of the Orfeón Donostiarrá chorus isn't likely to be the first time you get gooseflesh in the 35-minute final movement. The orchestra's first climax out of the spectral ooze is a passage of unalloyed transport. Throughout,

the movement has that sense of inevitability, of being determined by some engine deep inside the spirit of the piece, that marks music-making at its most exalted.

The chorus' perfectly tuned "Aufersteh'n," rising almost imperceptibly out of silence, is as uplifting as any I have heard, live or on recording, and the final 10 minutes of the movement go from strength to strength until you start to wonder if you can take any more. (You can.) Eteri Gvazava's soprano soars sublimely over it all.

Like the Mahler, the *La Mer* surpasses all other performances of it I know through the cumulative power it amasses over thousands of perfectly executed gestures. The concluding "Dialogue of the Wind and the Sea" achieves an unprecedented power.



Prom kings

A few months ago, BBC Legends released the first CD pressing of another, oddly comparable Mahler Second: its first performance at the London Proms on July 30, 1963, by the London Symphony Orchestra under the 81-year-old Leopold Stokowski. The conductor, now so wrongly associated with the supersizing of everything he touched, proves exactly the right sensibility for this gargantuan score.

This performance, like Abbado's, balances scale with inevitability, and never loses sight of the work's long line in the superbly rendered details of its ongoing drama. Janet Baker contributes a sublime "Urlicht," and a group of four choruses lend the close its requisite transcendence. ▼

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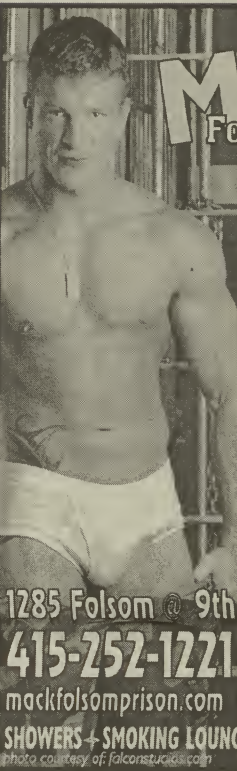
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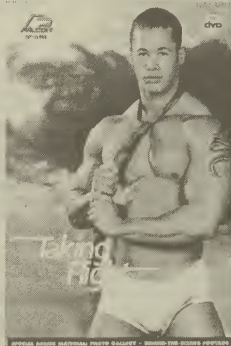
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Fat Car, 2001, styrofoam, polyester, car, part of "I Love My Time, I Don't Like My Time: Recent Work by Erwin Wurm" at YBCA.

Pop and light

Some of my friends can be very opinionated. And since all my friends are fabulously artful and intelligent, I respect their sentiments and learn from them. So when my buddy Remy Charlip and I, along with my old dear friend Michael Huckins, attended the opening party for the new exhibitions at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, I was all ears. And boy did I get an earful from Remy!

The three exhibitions were *I Love My Time, I Don't Like My Time: Recent Work by Erwin Wurm*; *Create and Be Recognized: Photography on the Edge*; and *Soy y Que: New Chicano/Latino Representations*.

The work that strikes you first as you enter the main gallery area is Erwin Wurm's pop-art installation and photographic exhibit. I found his images striking and memorable — the girl with the French fries in her toes is now permanently ingrained in my brain. The active installation with the articles of clothing available for anyone to try on while posing for a Polaroid shot — that was cool. The wall of faint figure drawings behind plexiglass windows — very interesting, its subtlety a stark contrast to the boldness of the giant photographic images, all very eye-popping in their posed glory. With bread sticks poking out of noses, melons fallen on an unconscious (or sleeping) boy in the produce marketplace, and a man sticking his arm through another man's fly and seeming to disappear, the imagery is as iconic as Warhol's unforgettable soup cans.

And that's what annoyed Remy. All very posed and superficial, he said of the photos. No depth. Too pop art. Too egotistical. Remy used to pal around with Warhol and gang at the Factory back in the day, creating his glorious children's books and choreographing his delightful dances, though he was never particularly into the Warhol esthetic. So Wurm's work struck him the same way, irritating him, and he minced no words about it. He couldn't wait to get out of that gallery!

Still, I rather enjoyed the imagery, posed as it was. It leaps out at you and grabs you, like it or not. Like I say, those French fries. . . . And that big shaving-cream foam house or whatever it was, containing the projection of the animated poetry-talking car — I don't know why it was there, but it was like being in a twisted *Sesame Street* skit taking place in Alice's Wonderland. The exhibit is up through January 9, so check it out and decide for yourself. For details check the Web at www.ybca.org.

Meanwhile, speaking of Remy, he encouraged me to check out Rudy Lemcke's recent video exhibit at ATA Gallery, "Light F/X," and I'm glad I did, though I wish the exhibit had been up more than a day because it deserves a good long splashy museum run. Lemcke's cycle of videos, divided into seven chapters, are gorgeous and thought-provoking, moody and multi-textured. Lemcke is a master of manipulating light and dark on the screen, as accomplished at the art form as Bill Viola, whose work I also greatly admire. Lemcke's stuff has a Zen-like quality; viewing it becomes a meditation of form, feeling and message (from text elements). It has immense depth and complexity, yet it's graceful, like a dance. Check out Lemcke's stuff on the Web at www.rudylemcke.com.

And regarding ATA Gallery (992 Valencia St.), that's where you'll still find (through Oct. 31) *The Visionary State: A Journey Through California's Spiritual Landscape*, the first fruit of a book project featuring photographs by Michael Rauner and text by Erik Davis, co-presented by ATA and Other Cinema. At the reception Oct. 14, I enjoyed catching up with Mr. Rauner (www.michaelrphotography.com), whom I've come to know and love through the Michael Light crew at Burning Man — a delirious bunch of artists — and I'm delighted to report his images of sacred architecture throughout California, including altars, temples, cathedrals, druid shacks and the like, afford a wonderful look at the wild and crazy spiritual diversity represented in the state. Check for details at www.ata-site.org. ▼



Elena Dorfman unveils her human/doll portraits for the Bay Area Photographers Collective at the Harvey Milk Photography Center. See Saturday.

Fri 29

Little Red vs. The Undead @ Off-Market Theater

Little Red Riding Hood comes back full force to protect and rid the world of zombie scum! Yet this time, she's coming to you in an in-your-face live play! This story stays true to the classic fairytale, yet has the spit and fire reminiscent of the film *Freeway*. Expect lots of screaming, fighting, begging for mercy, and mayhem. \$12. Plays 8pm Fri., Oct. 29 & Sat. Oct. 30. Off-Market Theater, 965 Mission St. (at Fifth). Tix/info: 510-748-9021; www.cafearts.com; www.ticketweb.com

Ghost Festival IV @ YBCA

First Voice presents "Ghost Festival IV: Mermaid Meat and Other Japanese Ghost Stories," with performances by Brenda Wong Aoki (storyteller), and Mark Izu (original composition), with guest artist Grand Master Seichi Tanaka of SF Taiko Dojo. Directed by Robin Stanton. \$25 door (\$2 off for students/seniors). 8pm Oct. 29 & 30; 2pm Oct. 31. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 201 Mission St. (at 3rd). Tix: 415-978-2787; www.ybca.org

Tim Hockenberry

@ Empire Plush Room

A favorite with Bay Area audiences for years, Tim Hockenberry joins his trio of musicians for two nights of music. Whether you've seen him onstage with such stars as Bonnie Raitt and David Sanborn, or you were lucky enough to catch him behind the piano at Martini's, you know that Tim is a unique and talented singer/pianist/trombonist. \$25 plus 2-drink minimum. 21+ w/d. October 29 & 30. Empire Plush Room, The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (btwn Leavenworth and Hyde). Tix/info: 415-885-2800; www.plushroom.com; www.ticketweb.com; www.timhockenberry.com

Rock Out w/o Your Cock Out @ Edinburgh Castle

Femina Potens presents the monthly Rock Out w/o Your Cock Out, a queer and progressive rock and experimental noise event showcasing women and transgendered musicians. Featured artists: Stiletta, Jen-Ro and Shevel Knievel. Femina Potens is a grassroots DIY Non-Profit Art Gallery and Performance space dedicated to promoting and educating women and transfolk in the arts. Femina Potens consists of four major aspects: events, gallery, classes/workshops, Community meetings and an alternative library. \$5. 9pm. Edinburgh Castle (950 Geary) Info: www.feminapotens.com

Womyn's Spiral Dance

@ Orinda Masonic Temple

Daughters of the Goddess, a Bay Area women-only Goddess Temple, presents its 21st Annual Womyn's Ritual and Spiral Dance to be held in honor of Halloween and the Crones. This Dianic Temple and community is dedicated in the spirit of Aloha to the preservation and perpetuation of multicultural Goddess culture, public ceremony, ritual, and women's mysteries. High Priestess Leilani Birely will be leading the ritual with special guests including

Evelle Posch; music will be performed by Jennifer Berezan, and drumming by Carolyn Brandy. Please bring drums and rattles to play with and pictures of your loved ones for our Ancestor altar. Artists and craftsmen will be available with goods for sale. The marketplace opens at 6:30 p.m. with the ritual beginning at 7:30 p.m. This annual celebration of the Pagan New Year draws 200+ women from around the Bay Area. All women and girls are welcome. The celebration will be held at the Orinda Masonic Temple, 9 Altarinda Road in Orinda. \$23 in advance by October 25th, or \$27 at the door. Girls 13 and under are free; \$5 for teens 14-19. Student and Crones discounts available in advance. 9 Altarinda Rd, Orinda (take 24/Walnut Creek to Orinda exit). Info: 925-787-9247; www.daughtersofthegoddess.com

Sound Tribe Sector 9

@ The Fillmore

Sound Tribe Sector 9 (STS9) take over Halloween weekend with an unprecedented three-night stint at the famed Fillmore in San Francisco on October 29, 30 & 31. STS9 are a unique and unforgettable live band — they are consummate musicians playing progressive music (blends of genres as diverse as acid jazz and drum n bass), they lead a philanthropic way of life (giving back to every community they come into through food drives, voter registration, etc.), and they are huge purveyors of the fine arts (incorporating fine arts into every aspect of their musical art). You never know what you're going to see at an STS9 show — it is truly a one-of-a-kind live experience. \$25. 9pm. 1805 Geary (at Fillmore). Tix/info: 415-346-2000; thefillmore.com; ticketmaster.com

Paul Van Dyk @ Ten15

1015 and Rock the Vote present internationally renowned DJ Paul Van Dyk with Jerry Bonham and Reza aka Dirtytherz. Presale: \$50.00 VIP (includes 2 drink tickets, exclusive guaranteed entrance all night, in's and out's all night, private bar, private bathrooms, overlooking view of P'd event from EXCLUSIVE VIP area). \$30.00 Gen'l Admission. Doors Open at: 10pm, close at: 6am. 21+ w/d. 1015 Folsom at 6th. Info: 415-431-1200

Hustlers Halloween

@ The Powerhouse

Join the SFGSL Hustlers for a Halloween bash featuring go-go goblins, dido toss, raffie prizes, dollar drafts, ghostly shots and more. \$5 cover. 9pm-midnight. 1347 Folsom Street (btwn 9th/10th). Info: powerhouse-sf.com; 415-552-8689.

DJ Roger Sanchez

@ mezzanine

Roger Sanchez will be playing a special all-night DJ set. No opener. No closer. 100% Sanchez. Limited \$5 presale tickets available. Limited \$20 VIP tickets also available. Doors Open at: 10pm. Mezzanine, 444 Jessie @ Mint St. Info: 415-625-8880; www.MezzanineSF.com. Tix: www.groovetickets.com

Ritual @ The Rawhide

Join DJ/Producer Frank Abraham (Mass LA, BUMP, and Hedon) for a "Halloween

Weekend Ritual." Laser lights and hot-gogs. \$12 cover (\$2 off in costume). Doors open 9pm. 21+ w/d. 280 7th St. (at Folsom).

Awe About Eve

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Return engagement: Awe About Eve, directed by John Fisher, starring Matthew Martin as everyone's favorite diva, Margo Channing. It's a bumpy night indeed! This limited three week revival engagement (thru Nov. 14) features a reunion of the complete, original cast: Floriana Alessandria, David Bicha, Shira Burstein, Jeffery Harigrafs, Libby O'Connell, Matt Weiner, and Maryssa Wanless. Show times: 8pm Wed-Sat.; 3:30 & 7:30 Sun. Theatre Rhinoceros downstairs, 2926 16th St. Info: www.rhino.org

Sat 30

Elena Dorfman/BAPC

@ Harvey Milk

Photography Center

The Bay Area Photographers Collective (BAPC) invites all to a free talk & slide show by photographer Elena Dorfman presenting her shocking, challenging, utilizing images of the relationship between human-sized dolls and their owners. Free. 2pm. 50 Scott St. (downstairs, at Duboce St.). Info: 650-325-5357 or 415-554-9522.

Terry Baum's Two Fools

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Gala Opening Night: Two women, one American, one Costa Rican. A lesbian Odd Couple who confront personal and cultural differences, and Luna's illegal status. Two Fools is the funny, passionate story of two women who claim the right to love without borders. Terry Baum has been writing plays since 1972. Runs Oct. 28-Nov. 21. \$35 Gala Opening Night with reception. \$15 Wed. at 8pm; \$23 Thu. at 8pm; \$28 Fri./Sat. at 8pm; \$23 Sun. at 3pm & 7pm. "Straight Night Out" with reception on Nov. 4. Theatre Rhinoceros Mainstage, 2926 16th St. Info: www.rhino.org

Donna Sachet

@ The Depot, Napa

Her Royal Highness Donna Sachet, the 30th Empress of San Francisco, will be joined by a host of friends in making her Napa debut at the Depot's Rainbow Room for a Halloween Extravaganza. Sachet will bring the special brand of vocal interpretations and female impersonation she developed when the character of Donna Sachet was born at a retreat of the SF Gay Men's Chorus, with whom she continues to appear. In 1993 she was selected Miss Gay San Francisco and two years later became the 30th elected Empress of the City. She has entertained at The Plush Room, the Castro Theatre, Great American Music Hall, Marlena's, the Grand Staircase of City Hall and Masonic Auditorium in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Sydney, Australia for Gay Mardi Gras, in New York City at the Marriott Marquis on Broadway, in Los Angeles at the Metropolitan Community Church with the cast of *Mama Mia*, and in Chicago at the International Mr. Leather Competition. She is the founder of the long running "Songs of the Season", a Holiday extravaganza that raises money for the AIDS Emergency Fund, and co-anchored the live national television coverage of the 2002, 2003, and 2004 SF Pride Parade. Her discography includes the holiday compilation *Cards Across America* and her image can currently be seen all over SF on billboards, bus shelters, and buses as the *Halloween* in the Castro spokesmodel. 9pm. The Rainbow Room, located in the Depot Restaurant, 806 Fourth St. (at Sossoli), Napa. Tix/info: 707-252-4477.

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents the NorCal debut of David Gregory's *Godfathers of Mondo*, the feature documentary detailing the development of that exploitation/documentary genre now known as "Mondo," originated in the 1960s by Italian auteurs Gualtiero Jacopetti and Franco Prosperi, creating a firestorm that branded their work as racist and colonialist. Halloween revelers in costumes encouraged. Free mulled wine served by ghouls; ambient visual tricks-and-treats; clips from scare movies. \$5. 8pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia St. Info: 415-824-3890; www.othercinema.com

Industry SF's House of Sin @ mezzanine

Industry SF presents Barry Harris at the "House of Sin," with decor/performance by Rubio & Kidd Madonny/RKM. Harris, a DJ for 20 years and has DJ'd at some of the most prestigious clubs around the world. These include Twilo, Roxy and Exit in New York City along with Arc and the "Sleaze Ball" Party in Australia to name a few. Since their humble go-go boy beginning in 1995, Rubio and Kidd's vision has evolved into the present day artistic arena of RKM Design and Production, Inc., producing spectacular high-concept shows. \$20; \$10 w/sinful attire/crazy costume. 21+ w/d. 444 Jessie St. (at Mint). Info: 415-625-8880; www.mezzaninesf.com

Traxylvania 2 @ Trax Bar

The Haigh's only queer bar hosts "Traxylvania 2. . . where the tricks are always treats!" Spooky tunes by Les Vegas. Fright-



The sensational Sonya Holland offers up steamy vocals and hot piano for Jazz at Pearl's. See Thursday.

ening flicks by super8man. Midnight performance by Franken-Chick. No cover. 9pm-2am. 1437 Haight St. (at Masonic).

Revolución SF @ the Rawhide

Unicoproducts presents: *Revolución SF*, a hot Latin Halloween ball and costume extravaganza featuring DJ/Producer Alexander spinning Latin and house. Xtreme club décor. Sexy dancers in costumes. \$12 cover (\$10 w/costume). 9pm-2am. 21+ w/ID. 280 7th St. (at Folsom). Info: 415-573-3600.

Sun 31

Halloween in the Castro II

"Halloween in the Castro II: A Neighborhood Celebration." Good Music. Good Times. Good Behavior. NO Booze, NO Drugs, NO Bashing. \$3 donation. 7pm-Midnight. Volunteers from community partner organizations will be collecting donations at the 14 entry gates to the event. By donating you support the services these organizations. In 2003, nearly \$16,000 in community grants was given back to six nonprofit organizations. More than 300 Police Officers, Sheriff Deputies, Firefighters (including Emergency Medical Personnel), and 75 SF Patrol Specialists (Officer Jane Warner) and 60 Parking and Traffic Control Officers will be working together to ensure the safety of residents and attendees. Best way to access party is by public transit and/or walking; leave your car at home (cars will be towed from main thoroughfares beginning at 1pm on October 31 and until the next morning). At 6pm, Market Street will close from Church to Diamond, and Castro Street will close from 16th to 20th. 16th Street between Market and Castro will close at 4pm. These closures will remain in effect until the end of the event. On the MAIN STAGE: (Market & Castro; 8pm-Midnight): Hosts Heklina and Sister Roma; performances by Charlotte Summer, Connie Champagne, Freestyle Dance Crew, Anita Cocktail, Smash-Up Derby, Trannyshack, Trixie Carr and Pepperspray. Costume Contest at 10pm hosted by the Castro Neighborhood Walgreens. \$100 for first place and an interview on KRON 4 TV. MARCH OF LIGHT STAGE (Castro & 19th; 7pm-Midnight): DJs, live performances and the March of Light Awards presentation co-hosted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The 4th annual March of Light Halloween Parade will be held on Market street starting at 8:30pm with a "Day of the Dead" ceremony beginning at 8pm at Market/Octavia. The March of Light invites performers of all kinds, such as marching bands, dancers, magicians, acrobats, etc., provided you can do your act while on the move. Alongside marchers on foot, the MOL also accepts groups with conveyances, such as floats, decorated bicycles, electric vehicles, etc. by prior approval. See www.marchoflight.org for complete registration info. TANTRA UNDERGROUND DANCE STAGE (Market & Noe; 6pm-Midnight): A showcase of electronic dance music celebrating the tribal dance experience through breakbeats and trance. Featuring DJs Joseph Lee (7-8pm),

DRC (8-9pm); Lorin (9-10pm); Liam Shy (10-11pm); and KJ (11pm-midnight). Visual styling from VJ Culture, Videojon and Ben Sheppee of the Dimension 7 collective. The entertainment for the celebration will end promptly at midnight. Info: www.halloween-sf.com

Get-Away from the Castro @ The Powerhouse

"Halloween Party" with costume contest at midnight. Tunes by DJ Uncle Andy. 1347 Folsom St. Info: 415-552-8689; powerhouse-sf.com

Dignity/SF's Day of the Dead @ 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church

Join Dignity/SF as they celebrate The Day of the Dead. Come dressed as your favorite saint (living or not). Bring mementos for the Altar of Remembrance. Share stories of the departed. Stay for the fiesta featuring Dead Bread Pastries, chocolate and more. 5:30pm. 1329 7th Ave. (at Irving).

Pepperspray @ Cafe Du Nord

The best Halloween party in SF happens underground at Cafe Du Nord as drag-rock sensations Pepperspray and '50s/60s popsters The Whoa Nellies (with Connie Champagne and Leigh Crow) play for all you goblins and freaks. Plus Candy From Strangers. \$5 cover. 10pm show. 21+ w/ID. 2170 Market St. Info: 415-861-5016.

Planet Big @ The Stud

Enjoy big men, big music, and big fun at "Planet Big". \$5 cover (free with costume). 5-10pm. The Stud Bar, 9th & Harrison.

House of More!

@ Olive

The queen of all divas, Juanita More!, plays records and awards prizes for sickest costume. Tricks and treats provided. Artwork by Rob Joliin. More Boys galore. \$3. 9pm-midnight. Olive, 734 Larkin St. (at O'Farrell). Info: missjuanitamore@aol.com

Mon 1

Marcus Shelby Jazz @ Intersection

Jazz At Intersection presents the Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra performing an evening of music spanning a range of styles spanning 100 years, from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, compositions by Count Basie in honor of his 100th birthday, and Shelby's ambitious *Port Chicago* (Ballet Suite for Jazz Orchestra). \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th/16th). Tix/info: 415-626-3311; www.theintersection.org

Tue 2

House of Love @ Brainwash

Spend election night at House of Love, "the

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Wed 3

Bolshoi Ballet's Romeo & Juliet @ Zellerbach Hall

Gala Benefit Performance: Cal Performances present the Bolshoi Ballet & Orchestra in a spectacular production of *Romeo & Juliet*, with music by Sergei Prokofiev, choreography by Radu Poklitaru, directed by Declan Donnellan, with design by Nick Ormerod (Bay Area premiere). \$250-\$1,000. 6pm caviar & champagne reception in lobby mezzanine; 7pm performance; post-performance dinner & silent auction in Pauley Ballroom. Performances continue Nov. 4 & 5 at 8pm, Nov. 6 at 2pm & 8pm, and Nov. 7 at 3pm. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Gala tix: 510-643-8783. Gen'l tix/info: 510-642-9988.

Holcombe Waller @ Cafe Du Nord

Catch him before he moves to Portland! SF's great singer/songwriter Holcombe Waller performs one last show before heading north. He'll open for Laura Veirs and will play songs off his new album *Troubled Times*, a gorgeous piece of work with such great songs as "Literally the End of the World" and "No Enemy." Waller is a true sensation. Don't miss this show! \$8. Door opens 8pm; show at 9:30pm sharp. 2170 Market St. Info: www.holcombewaller.com; cafedunord.com

Thu 4

DVXcellence Awards @ Clift Hotel

The SF Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center (www.sfcenter.org) and the Alice B. Tolkas LGBT Democratic Club will salute the Honorable Willie L. Brown, Jr. in recognition of his continual support for the LGBT community at the 2004 DVXcellence Awards. Sponsored by DVX by Mumm Napa (www.mummapa.com). Special menu created by chef Carter Shuffler of the Clift's Asia de Cuba restaurant paired with the 1998 DVX. General admission: \$75.00; VIP tickets: \$150. 6pm VIP reception with Mayor Brown; 7pm dinner. The Clift Hotel, 495 Geary St. Tix/info: 415-865-5502; e-mail events@sfcenter.org

Sonya Holland @ Jazz at Pearl's

In concert: jazz vocalist Sonya Holland returns with her quartet to Jazz at Pearl's following her sold out CD release concert in April. Her CD, *On A San Francisco High*, is currently being featured on many radio stations including the Bay Area's jazz station KCSM 91.1, and nationally syndicated programs like Jim Wilke's "Jazz After Hours" from Public Radio International. Her first release since moving to the Bay Area last year, the album is a conceptual collection that captures Holland's images of smoky, blue-lit North Beach bars at midnight. \$5. 8pm dinner show; 10:30pm cocktail show. 256 Columbus Ave (at Broadway). Info: 415-291-8255.

Camper Van Beethoven & Enorchestra @ The Fillmore

Two of the great bands of our time. Guitarist Doug Hissinger and vocalist Caroleen Beatty head Enorchestra, whose renditions of Brian Auger & The Trinity classic album *Taking Tiger Mountain* (by Strategy) prove their brilliance. Camper Van Beethoven (David Lowery on vocals, guitar; Victor Krummenacher on bass, vocals; Greg Lisher on guitar; Jonathan Segel on violin, guitar, keyboards; and Chris Pedersen on drums) is a super band with a huge cult following. They've been on tour and play at home showcasing material from *New Roman Times*, Camper Van Beethoven's first album of new material since reuniting after a decade-long hiatus. \$20. Doors 7pm; show 8pm. 1805 Geary (at Fillmore). Tix/info: 415-346-2000; thefillmore.com

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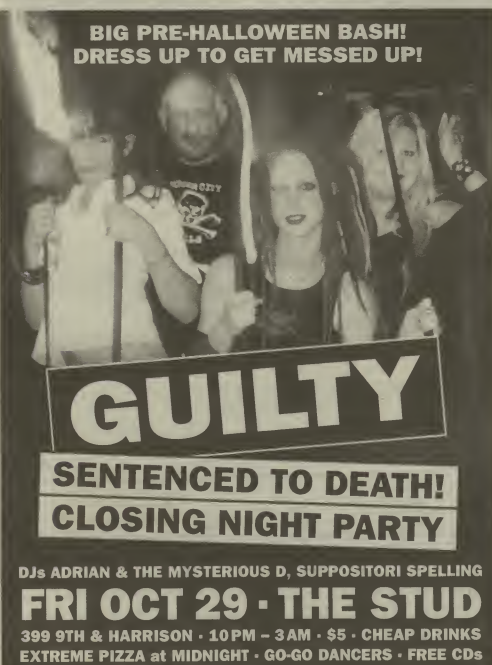
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Halloween DVDs

◀ Arts cover

a bride! The Monster is now being manipulated by Dr. Praetorius (Whale's friend Ernest Thesiger, also openly gay off-screen). Praetorius, one of Henry's old medical-school teachers, is perhaps the first openly gay character in a Hollywood film to be comfortable with his sexuality. He's a screaming, bitchy queen who flirts openly with his former student and eyes Henry's wife with sarcastic revulsion. His wit is razor-sharp as he blackmails Henry into helping him create a bride for the monster.

Brilliantly funny scenes, such as when Praetorius prepares himself a buffet dinner in a mausoleum, while toasting the skull at the head of the coffin being used as a table, will leave you laughing and cringing. "To a new world of Gods and Monsters!" he proclaims, the source of the title of the '98 Whale biopic.

The creation of the Bride is an awesome sequence, as Praetorius and Henry call upon the power of lightning streaming down from the heavens to give life to the female monster (Elsa Lanchester, again). This scene is played with an over-the-top hysteria closer in spirit to a silent film than a talkie, and captures the majesty of what the two mad doctors are achieving. Lanchester in her flowing white gown and electric hairdo is an amazing sight to behold. Was her drag-like appearance deliberate?

Karloff, in his second of three outings as the Monster, brings true pathos to a role that becomes so much more than just a scary monster. Was the Monster's loneliness and isolation an extension of what Whale felt, growing up as a closeted gay youth in Edwardian England?

Bride remains essential viewing



The Bride (Elsa Lanchester) is given life in a scene of over-the-top hysteria.

for horror fans, and for students of gay cinema history. After several years out of print, it has recently returned to DVD as part of *Frankenstein: The Legacy Collection*, the entire series of *Frankenstein* films produced by Universal Studios between 1931-'45. The set's many extras include behind-the-scenes documentaries on the series' first two films, which feature discussions on how Whale's sexuality influenced his work.

Dream girls

Daughters of Darkness (1970) The only film to be directed by Flemish TV producer Harry Kumel, *Daughters* is a haunting and highly erotic work. It often achieves a hypnotic, dreamlike quality.

Shot in an elegant, largely vacant hotel on the Flemish coast, it features an international, English-speaking cast. Delphine Seyrig was once a huge star in French cinema. John Karlen had a lengthy run on the hit American TV series *Dark Shadows*. Andrea Rau had done a number of nude centerfolds in Germany, had been a ballet dancer and a porn star. Busy girl!

The story combines vampirism with bisexual wife-swapping, and was considered quite daring at the time of its release. Seyrig and Rau play a lesbian couple staying at the hotel, where the only other guests are a pair of bisexual newlyweds (Karlen, Danielle Ouimet). The hotel's bellhop recalls meeting the grand, elegant Countess Elizabeth Bathory (Seyrig) 40 years earlier. "But you haven't changed a bit, Countess!"

"You must be mistaking me for my mother," the Countess cheerfully proclaims.

Since this is a vampire movie, it isn't too long before we realize why the Countess hasn't changed. Both she and her "secretary," Ilona (Rau), have their eyes on the sexy young couple sharing the hotel with them.

Daughters proves that the bite of a vampire is a sexual act. Long before Catherine Deneuve seduced Susan Sarandon in *The Hunger* ('83), *Daughters* showed, cinematically, that feasting upon blood, is, for the undead, the climactic moment of sex. In this film, the vampires enjoy the company of both sexes with equal enthusiasm.

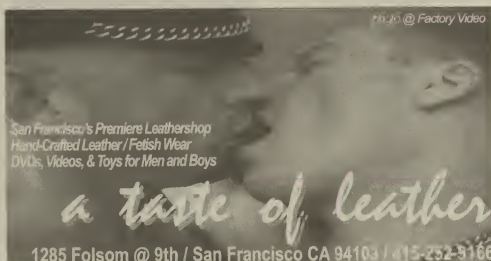
Blue Underground Video releases the film in all its uncut glory. Previous versions were heavily censored. Extras include commentaries from Kumel and Karlen, trailers, and a recent interview with Rau, who discusses the onscreen sexual tension between the late Seyrig and herself. Happy Halloween! ▼

Kaufman conversation



As a special advance part of their 20th anniversary celebration, the Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema co-presents *In Conversation with Philip Kaufman* with the Castro Theatre, a tribute to the prolific San Francisco director, on November 4 at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St.

Academy Award-winning director Kaufman will engage in conversation with film critic Michael Sragow. The talk will be complemented with clips from such Kaufman films as *Twisted*, *Henry and June*, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* and *The Right Stuff*. For more information, visit www.filmarts.org or call (415) 552-FILM. ▼



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Remembering Christopher Reeve

He was a hero to the disabled community

by John R. Killacky

Superman was not supposed to die.

He promised he would walk again; he would push back pain, overcome paralysis and injury. I sincerely believed him. So did many other disabled people. We needed him to do so. But, on October 10, when Christopher Reeve passed away from heart failure, hopes and dreams were tempered with reality.

Eight years ago, I woke up from spinal surgery paralyzed from the neck down. During my stint in a rehabilitation hospital, I was watching a television interview with Reeve, and remarked to my doctor how sorry I felt for the actor because he was quadriplegic. She looked surprised, and asked, "What do you think your condition is?"

I suffer, officially, from Brown-Séquard's syndrome, an improvement from the post-surgical quadriplegia that afflicted me. I'm hemiparesis (weak on one half of the body), with numbness of my right side lingering indefinitely.

Throughout my arduous, convoluted journey over the past eight years, Christopher Reeve was a bellwether. We were the same age. If he could progress, so could I. Leaders do not always get to choose their battle. Reeve became a warrior, advocating for adequate spinal cord and stem cell research, as well more catastrophic insurance reform. His foundation raised \$46.5 million to support these efforts.

Two days after Reeve died, I attended a symposium on stem cell research sponsored by the newly formed Willie J. Brown Jr. Institute on Politics and Public Service. Superman was missed. I wanted him to roll out on stage and be the poster child once more, embodying the essential issues being discussed.

In June 2000, Reeve wrote in *Time*: "It is our responsibility to do everything possible to protect the quality of life of the present and future generations. A critical factor will be what we do with embryonic stem cells. While we prolong the stem cell debate, millions continue to suffer. It is time to harness the power of government to go forward."

At the symposium, experts debated the efficacy and ethics of this research. Scientists, economists, bio-ethicists, theologians, and politicians spoke. I heard how stem cells had the potential to treat/cure many diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, strokes, multiple sclerosis, and spinal injuries.

With 20 years of research data to draw upon, every one of the speakers seemed to agree on the beneficial uses of adult stem cells in research, but opinions on the use of embryo stem cells ranged significantly as different orthodoxies pressed forward. The disagreements were mitigated for me when it was clarified that these embryos were unused by women in vitro fertilization attempts, and would otherwise be discarded or frozen for future uses.

President Bush's restrictive policy of limiting federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to lines developed prior to August 2001 has hamstringing and compromised much research. Presently, there are only 22 stem cell lines available for federal funds, and most of these were developed with mouse feeder cells, making them



Reeve showed courage to the end.

incompatible with human experimentation. Clearly, many more stem cell lines are needed to make any scientific advancement.

Californians will have a chance to be heard on this issue when we vote on Proposition 71 in the upcoming election. A yes vote authorizes the investment of \$3 billion state bonds to establish a

publicly accountable nonprofit California Institute for Regenerative Medicine to "regulate stem cell research and provide funding through grants and loans for such research and research facilities." The state bonds are to be self-financing during the first five years of the 10-year initiative at no cost to the State's General Fund.

Proponents of the ballot measure claim California spends \$110 billion annually on health care, with much of that directed to diseases that could be treated and cured with stem cell therapies. From this perspective, the investment seems not only humane, but also fiscally wise and prudent. We cannot afford to not support stem cell research. ▼

John R. Killacky is a program officer at The San Francisco Foundation and co-editor of the Lambda Award winning anthology *Queer Crips: Disabled Gay Men and Their Stories*.



Superman became an advocate for stem-cell research and scientific study.

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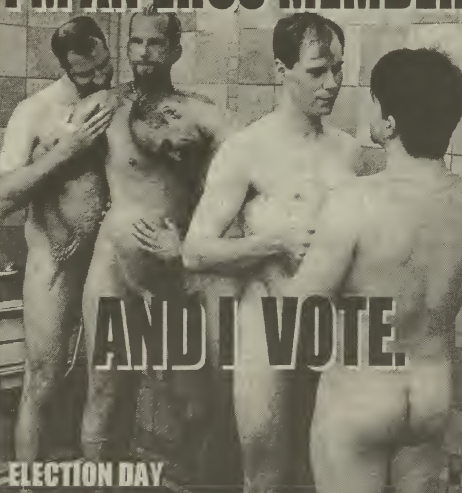
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The home stretch

Lions play at the Eagle ... and more!

by Mister Marcus

Year 2004 is waning fast and the months ahead will not be without highlights in the leather nation. Halloween is this weekend and LGBTQ people will be celebrating from coast to coast.

In San Francisco, the Castro Lions stage a Halloween costume contest at the Eagle Tavern on Saturday, October 30 from 2100 to 2400. It could be a frightful scene!

If you're in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Boys of Leather and the Gauntlet II present "The Haunted Torture Chamber" Halloween costume party and contest at the Gauntlet II from 2100 to closing with a \$5 donation to benefit "Trevor Project."

The following weekend in San Jose, it's the Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather contests, with a Meet & Greet on Friday, November 5 at Renegades Bar and the contest at the King of Clubs bar in Mountain View. Lenny Broberg and Jeff Tucker will MC and there's a victory brunch on Sunday at the Cardinal Coffee Shop. For more info, click on www.sccleatherorg/contest/info.htm.

In San Diego that darling woman Karen Yew steps aside from her Ms. San Diego Leather title to sash her successor with a meet & greet on Friday, November 5, and the contest at The Hole on Saturday, November 6. It's a \$10 donation and will be MC'd by Empress Christina Monet with entertainment by "The 4 Tops."

The WOOLF organization in Wichita, Kansas are staging their Mr. and Ms. WOOLF Leather contest and Kansas Leather Girl competition the weekend of November 5-7. For info visit the web at www.woolfks.com.

More and more...

For the rest of November and beyond, leather titles will be bestowed on worthy individuals, and leather festivals will take place.

Over the weekend of November 10-14, the Mr. Leather Ottawa Contest will take place at Capital City Music Hall in Ottawa. The weekend package is \$99 and the contest itself is \$25/\$30 at the door. For more information, click on www.ottawaknights.com.



San Francisco said farewell to California Leather Family 2004 "Master Jammer", Ms. Evan and Jack Garcia (left to right) as they were feted at the SF Eagle Tavern on Saturday night October 23. No contest, no step down speeches — just a hearty crowd to thank them for a job well done!

The same weekend, the Palm Springs Leather Order of the Desert (PSLOD) presents the Mr. Palm Springs Leather contest when Jack Beneville will sash his successor. Interested parties might like to know that our former Empress Snatch is Mr. Baracks Leather and makes bid for the title that same night.

In New York, GMSMA presents Leatherfest 2004 weekend with Midori on Wednesday night (November 10) all at The Center with an Erotic Art Fair, workshops. For info, email: mr-lure2002@aol.com.

In Washington, D.C., the DC Eagle celebrates another anniversary and the Mr. DC Eagle Leather contest on Saturday, November 20. Jason Hendrix will sash his successor then, but is still IML 2004.

On Thanksgiving weekend in the U.S., Remi Collette will step aside to sash his successor to the Mr. Toronto Leather Man title. No details on the weekend at my deadline.

On the weekend of December 3-4 in Phoenix, Arizona, it's the SW Leather Conference's Daddy/boy contest and the 3rd

annual Southwest Master/slave contest and the SW bootblack. Surf to: www.leatherboyaz@msn.com.

The weekend of January 14-16, the Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend by the Centaur MC takes place with a weekend fee of \$109 until January 1st, 2005. You can book the "weekend" package at www.boxofficetickets.com or print out the registration form and mail it in by surfing to: www.leatherweekend.com. Big stars will perform at this "first of the year extravaganza".

For the last weekend in January (Jan. 28-30), it's the Mr. Chicago Leather Contest at the Touché Bar on the north side of that toddlin' town. IML 2003 John Pental will be the master of ceremonies. The host hotel is Heart O' Chicago (www.hearttochicago.com). For more information, email to: chicagolederdaddy@sbcglobal.net.

That should keep you busy scheduling, using up those frequent flyer miles and making your plastic work out.

California Leather Family farewell

Last Saturday night, October 23, California Leather Man Terry

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend October 29-30

"Playground 2004" in Amsterdam, the annual gathering with scores of events to keep you titillated and fulfilled.

Friday, October 29

Sacramento Valley Leathermen in Sacramento celebrate with a 7th anniversary party at The Bolt from 2000 to 2200 with cake, refreshments, special presentations/awards. Call: (916) 486-5500 or click on www.svlclub.org.

Saturday, October 30

The Castro Lions stage a Halloween costume party and contest at the SF Eagle Tavern from 2100 to midnight. In Los Angeles, the LA Boys of Leather host "The Haunted Torture Chamber" at the Gauntlet II from 2100 to closing. For info: www.gauntletii.com. \$5 donation at the door.

Weekend, November 5-7

In Wichita, Kansas, WOOLF presents Mr. Woolf

Leather, Ms. Woolf Leather and Kansas Leather Girl contests. For more info click on www.woolfks.com.

Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather contests at the King of Clubs in Mountain View on Saturday after a day of workshops and fun at the Billy De Frank Center. The meet and greet is on Friday at Renegades. Former IMLs Jeff Tucker and Lenny Broberg will share MC duties. For more information surf to www.sccleatherorg/contest/info.htm.

In Baltimore COMMAND (Corps of Men Making a Noticeable Difference) celebrate their 16th Anniversary and the Mr. Maryland Leather contest at various locations. Weekend package is \$79 at this late date. Contest only is \$15. For more info, www.commandmc.com.

In San Diego that sweet thing Karen Yew steps aside to sash her successor as Ms. San Diego Leather at the Hole on Saturday night. Friday is the meet & greet at the San Diego Eagle. Thanks for a fun year, Ms. Yew!!

Sex by the book

by John F. Karr

Just the other day, as I was in the midst of feeling pretty, I read in this very paper a comment so uncosmetic that my face nearly cracked. Have I ever, asked a letter to the editor, met a mediocre movie I didn't like? Oh, dear. Was I in need of a makeover?

Let's see. Of the 40 movies I've reviewed so far this year, a mere 10 were raves. A heftier 13 were outright pans, and a mighty 17, the majority of my reviews, were Middling. So I believe mediocrity has been recognized. But here's the catch: I'll admit to squealing about hot moments in otherwise cool movies. Mighty juju appears in the midst of dross, and I seize it when I see it. I don't think the general reader is overtaken to separate these moments of exultation from the general exegesis. But to avoid confusion in today's reviews, which may include a squeal among the slights, I'll tell you the outcome right away. One Middling, one Pan.

Is *A Current Affair* the low end of Good or the high side of Middling? It's the first feature from All American Men, a new company helmed by industry vet Mike Donner with Steve Jerome. Donner has directed many features for All Worlds Video, with a decent track record. Jerome has a string of amateurishly made amateur titles to his résumé. I remembered him as the guy who made a mishmash out of intolerably pretty Ian Idol's debut. *A Current Affair*, though, is well laid out. It takes place in a gay bookstore, where browsers peruse books which lead to their erotic fantasies, and a reader's group turns into an orgy. Finally, the store's manager finds true romance with a visiting author.

Kent Larson, usually so shiny, so forthright, yields a lower wattage as the writer. It's hard to believe that anybody has ever groped himself while reading E.M. Forster's *Maurice* in a bookstore, but Larson does. That whisks us into an enactment of Maurice's encounter with a carpenter. Give credit to the set dressing and the costuming, which make a good stab at period recreation. And get stabbed by the music: a piece for solo piano, a student exercise, really, whose 32 bars of treacle are repeated torturously throughout the entire scene: a full half-hour! If you can survive



Fantasies become flesh at a gay bookstore in the new film *A Current Affair*.

the soundtrack's exorcism, the sex it accompanies can be enjoyable. Maurice (Sean Kelly) is fair-haired and creamy-cheeked; the carpenter (Angelo Besti-amo) is a darker, hairy-chested young man with a tattooed groin, a gorgeous cock, and an appreciable enjoyment in his sex. He's as forward as you'd expect a working-class guy to be, but the

scene's surprise is that it's he who gets topped by the quieter, less demonstrative Maurice.

Photo sexing

A second customer imagines the photo session that resulted in a book of nudes, and yes, the photographer gets overheated and screws the model. It's a standard-make porn scene that nonetheless features a nice chain-fuck when a third party joins in. The movie's third sequence is supposed to illustrate the everlasting love of a True Romance novel, and succeeds on a slightly less exalted level as 20 minutes of romantically inclined make-out. It's spruced up by a flip-flop fuck, an exciting insertion shot, and Larson's

screwing by Thomas Bond, which brings up a good spurt. The orgy for the reader's group is okay; I was perked up by the debut of butch Ty Smith, a furry, cock-ringed fucker. Finally, Larson returns to the store to woo the manager, broad-cocked Jake Hansen. They don't really click, but they do flip-flop, and Larson cums twice. *A Current Affair* could use a little more punch, but it's okay in its lower-keyed way.

Not so *City Heat Country Passion*. The company's second feature lacks so much more than a comma in its title. Yes, the boys are so fresh you'd nearly count them chicken. But their sexuality seems as unformed as the movie-making. I'm the last one to stigmatize effeminacy, but these silly little frillies are laughable as junior executives. Whether having sex in their hotel suite or in the countryside on a retreat, these tender tots are so... tentative. Maybe it's the direction. Formulaic activity, interrupted scenes, heavy-handed attempts at energizing humor, spots on the camera lens, wind in the microphones, and a hodgepodge of music that runs from banal to just plain inappropriate (scenes in rural Missouri are accompanied by a rag!). The whole affair is just too inconsequential. www.allamericanmen.com ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Demby, California Leather Woman Ms. Evan, and California Leather Boy appeared before an appreciative and adoring crowd at the SF Eagle Tavern for a fond farewell. No speeches, no fanfare, no grandiose extravaganza. Everyone in attendance expressed their admiration and appreciation for a job well done in individual conversations with each titleholder.

Since the 2004 edition of the California Leather Family title contests was cancelled (due to lack of contestants), there would be no ceremony as normally happens at a contest. Refreshments were served, flower bouquets were presented and it was the closing of a

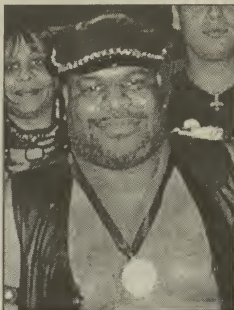
year for three proud titleholders from the Golden State.

Thanks Terry, Evan and Jack for a job well done. You did our state very, very proud and everyone appreciates your efforts.

Birthday boy Julian Marshburn

Last Sunday evening, Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 Julian Marshburn celebrated his 33rd birthday at a big gathering for him at the Powerhouse Bar. It was another gathering of the faithful paying tribute to another admired titleholder. There were cake and Hawaiian Lei's, lots of "shots" and kibitzing. It was a nice reunion of old and new friends, and a convivial atmosphere prevailed until the wee hours.

Happy Birthday, Julian, a little late, but no less sincere!



Here's John Tatum, the first-ever Leather Man of Color, chosen two weekends ago at the Touché Bar in Chicago. The contest was sponsored by the Onyx M.C. Mr. Tatum advances to the IML 2005 class next May.

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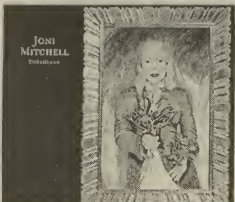
Harvest of hits

Reissued & repackaged

by Gregg Shapiro

An abundant cornucopia of collections and compilations is ripe for the picking at your favorite music outlet.

The 17 tracks anthologized on Joni Mitchell's *Dreamland* (Asylum/Reprise Nonesuch/Rhino)



are as much a portrait of the artist as the painting on the CD cover. Glossing over her first two albums, the songs on *Dreamland* date as far back as 1970 ("The Circle Game," "Big Yellow Taxi" from *Ladies of the Canyon*), and include at least one song from each of her studio albums through '77's *Don Juan's Reckless Daughter*. Mitchell's "lost" Geffen years, which were finally given their due with the stunning '03 *Complete Geffen Recordings* box set, are also skimped on, with the exception of "Dancin' Clown" (Chalk Mark in a Rainstorm) and "Come in from the Cold" (Night Ride Home). For a more thorough selection of important Geffen years tunes, check out the recent, politically-minded *The Beginning of Survival* collection. Sadly, none of the original selections from Mitchell's mid-to-late '90s return to Reprise have been included here, although her symphonic remake of "Both Sides Now" (from her '00 album of same name) is present.

Canadian country artist Terri Clark managed to make enough of a mark to release the 14-track *Greatest Hits: 1994-2004* (Mercury). Clark exhibits both good taste in cover tunes (Warren Zevon's "Poor Poor Pitiful Me") and writing partners (Mary Chapin Carpenter on "No Fear"), and the staying power necessary to keep up with newcomers such

as Gretchen Wilson and Juliet Roberts.

To complete the diva motif, we have *The Best of Liza Minnelli* and *The Essential Rosemary Clooney* (both Columbia/Legacy). Minnelli's brief Columbia tenure yielded the acclaimed live album *Liza with a Z* and some lackluster studio albums, but that hasn't stopped them from raiding the vaults for compilation purposes. There is some repetition from '00's *16 Biggest Hits*, including her late-'80s Pet Shop Boys collaboration that brought her back to the Sony family. Clooney's '00 *16 Biggest Hits* also trumps the *Essential* disc, due to its inclusion of the classic community standard "Sisters."

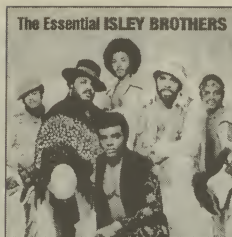
Led by the charismatic Pat DiNizio, The Smithereens ranked highly among the college radio bands of the early '80s and went on to have both indie and major-label success. *Anthology: From Jersey It Came!* is a double-disc set that includes hits such as "Blood & Roses," "Yesterday Girl," and

"Top of the Pops."

The signature guitar assault of Van Halen is the focus of the double-disc collection *The Best of Both Worlds* (Warner Brothers), on which the core trio of brothers Edward & Alex Van Halen and Michael Anthony laid the groundwork for flamboyant vocalists David Lee Roth ('78-'84) and Sammy Hagar ('86-present). Often imitated, never duplicated, this collection acknowledges Van Halen's contributions to hard rock.

Brother spirit

The 34 songs on the thorough and aptly named double-disc set *The Essential Isley Brothers* (Epic/T-Neck/Legacy) span more than 40 years, with the emphasis being on the incredibly prolific soul/rock hybrid of the '70s period that produced such hits as "That Lady," "Fight the Power," and "Groove with You." They get the remix treatment on *The Isley Brothers: Taken to the Next Phase*



(Epic/Legacy), which consists of "reconstructions" of classic Isley tunes by Stuart Matthewman, Mos Def, Raphael Saadiq and others.

Nowhere near as comprehensive as 2002's *Forty Licks*, the import-only single-disc compilation *Jump Back: The Best of the Rolling Stones 1971-1993* (Virgin/EMI) is sort of an extension and update of the long-out-of-print '84 *Rewind* disc.

Long considered to be the "British" Bob Dylan, Donovan created psychedelic pop songs that even hippie's parents could find groovy. *The Essential Donovan* (Epic/Legacy) presents tunes like "Sunshine Superman," "Season of the Witch," "Mellow Yellow," "Hurdy Gurdy Man," and my personal fave, "Atlantis." If you are wondering what Donovan is up to these days, check out his recently

released new album *Beat Café* (Applesseed).

Soulful period excursions to consider include *The Essential Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes* (Epic/Legacy), featuring "The Love I Lost" and "If You Don't Know Me By Now," almost a carbon copy of the superior 2001 Ultimate disc; and Alexander O'Neal's *Greatest Hits* (Tabu/The Right Stuff), which includes "Fake" and "Innocent."

The Platinum Collection (Virgin/EMI) spans the British band Roxy Music's glam days (or should that be gaze) through its glorious pop period. With a few exceptions (the exclusion of "In the Midnight Hour" and "I'm in the Mood for Love"), this set could replace most of the recent single-disc collections, although '95's four-disc box set *The Thrill of It All* remains the last word on Roxy Music. *The Platinum Collection* also does an admirable job of assembling the best of Brian Ferry's solo work. ▼

Expanding outstanding

by Gregg Shapiro

Reissues are a booming business in the music industry. As unreleased material surfaces, it is finding a place in the marketplace on bonus discs of re-released albums. While some albums are more deserving than others to receive this kind of treatment, there are likely to be people out there who will purchase these discs to make their collections more complete.

With the recent release of a brand-new major-label studio disc, *This Island*, queer feminist electro-punk trio Le Tigre has reissued its entire groundbreaking back catalog on its own Le Tigre Records label (www.letigre-world.com). Two full-length albums, *Le Tigre* ('99) and *Feminist Sweepstakes* ('01), and two EPs,

From the Desk of Mr. Lady ('00) and *Remix* ('01), have been amplified with bonus tracks or video footage, making these already essential recordings even more worth possessing.

In the time since his death, Jeff Buckley has often been imitated, but never duplicated. First released 10 years ago, his landmark album *Grace* (Columbia) has been reissued in an expanded, three-disc "legacy edition," which includes previously unreleased live, alternate take, and alternate mix versions of originals, covers (MC5's "Kick Out the Jams" and Hank Williams' "Lost Highway") and collaborations ("I Want Someone So Badly" with Shudder To Think), and a DVD with the videos from *Grace* and previously unseen footage. Whether you are a Buckley collector or a newcomer to his charms and talents, this set is worth having in your music library.

Since '01, the folks at Rhino Records have been reissuing the Elvis Costello back catalog in double-disc expanded editions, three albums at a time. The current trio, '81's *Almost Blue*, '84's *Goodbye Cruel World* and '95's *Kojak Variety*, are an odd lot. *Blue* and *Kojak* are both cover albums. *Blue* was a country collection, and the expanded edition is of note for duet bonus tracks such as George Jones' cover of Costello's "Stranger in the House" and the Johnny Cash pair-

ing on George Jones' "We Oughta Be Ashamed." Costello's "rhythm & blues/popular ballads" collection *Kojak* was somewhat less successful. *Cruel World* has some classic Costello moments, including "The Only Flame in Town," "Love Field," "The Comedians" and the timely "Peace in Our Time." Personally, I'm still holding out for the expanded version of *King of America*.

Clash flow

It's hard to believe, but Joe Strummer of The Clash will be dead two years in December. The impact of his death, along with the recent deaths of members of the Ramones, continues to be felt in the music world. This is especially true with the faux punk revival going full force (see Good Charlotte). As if to remind us of the ways that punk rock and artistry could meet head on, there is the expanded 25th Anniversary three-disc set "legacy edition" reissue of '79's *London Calling* (Epic/Legacy). Disc one contains the original 19 songs. Disc two, tagged *The Vanilla Tapes*, is a 21-track disc with previously unheard rehearsal sessions augmented by five new songs. The third disc is a DVD titled *The Last Testament: The Making of London Calling*, including a documentary about the making of the legendary disc.

In the case of Brian Wilson presents *SMiLE* (Nonesuch), a musical myth (the long-shelved *Smile* album) that comes to fruition and is expanded to great effect. The legendary "unfinished teenage symphony to God" song cycle is finally being heard in its entirety on this new recording, more than 35 years after production was ceased on the project. With lyrics by Van Dyke Parks and music by Wilson, these 17 tracks are sun-dappled numbers that echo an earlier era, effectively keeping the good vibrations "a-happening" long after the album stops. You're sure to recognize "Heroes and Villains," "Vegetables," "Wind Chimes," "Wonderful" and "Good Vibrations" from previous Beach Boys incarnations, but here they fit together like long-misplaced puzzle pieces. *SMiLE* was worth the wait.

Two years after the considerably expanded reissue of *Slanted and Enchanted*, Pavement's '92 debut album, an even more expansive reissue of '94's *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain* (Matador) has arrived. Disc one, titled *Back to the Gold Soundz* (Phantom Power Parables), includes the original album in its entirety, as well as B-sides and compilation tracks. Disc two, titled *After the Glow* (Where Eagles Dare), includes John Peel Sessions from the BBC and much more. ▼

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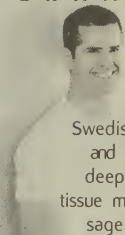
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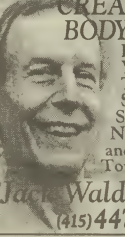
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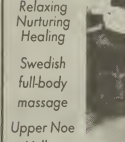
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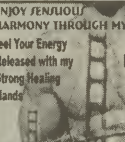
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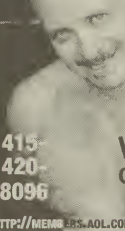
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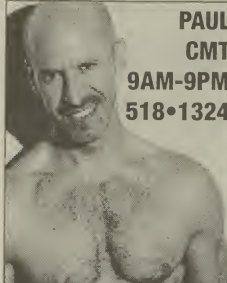
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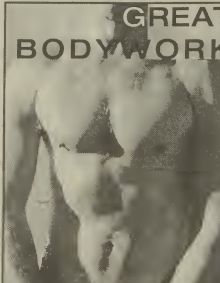
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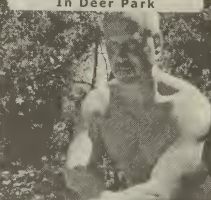
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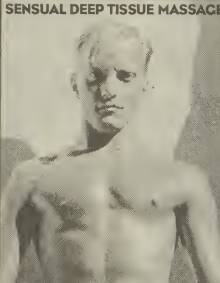
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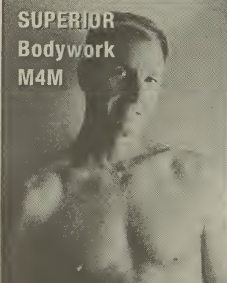
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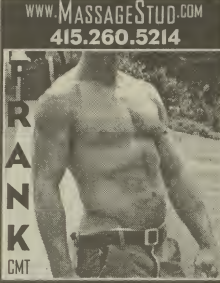
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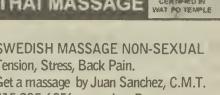
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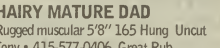
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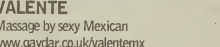
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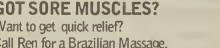
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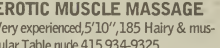
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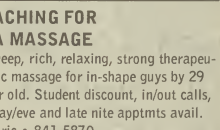
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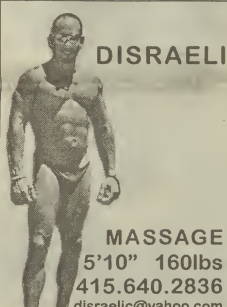
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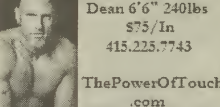
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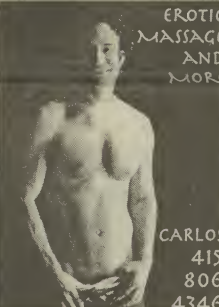
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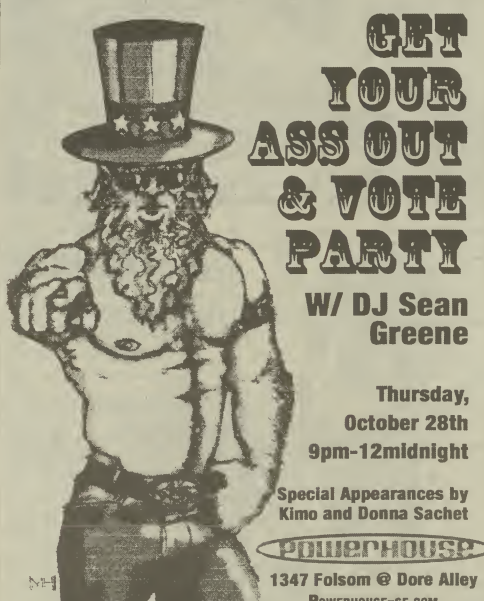
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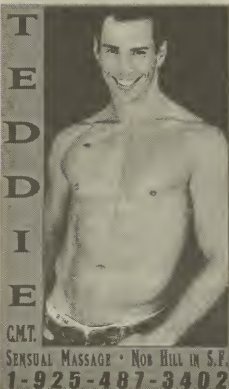


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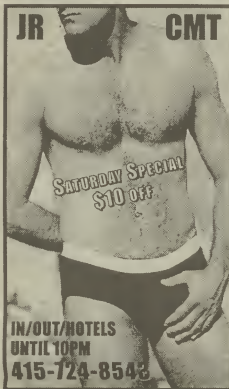
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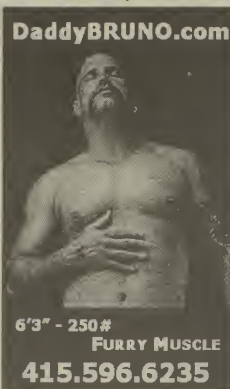
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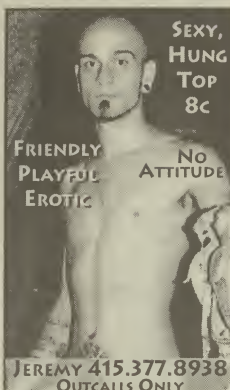
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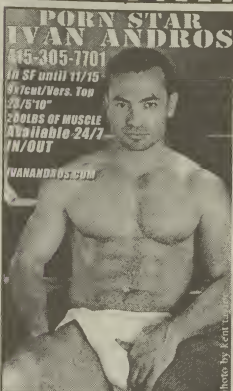
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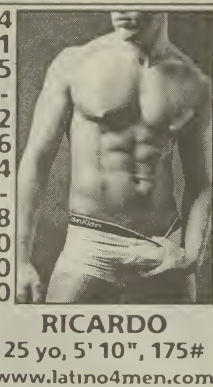
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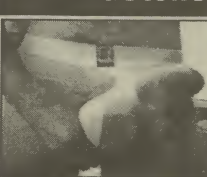
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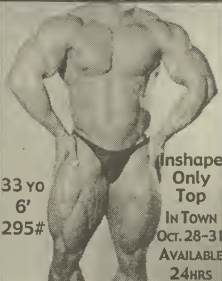
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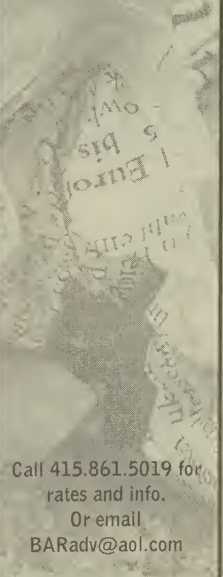
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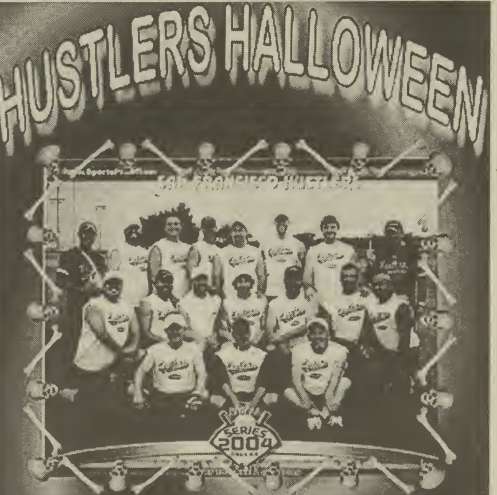
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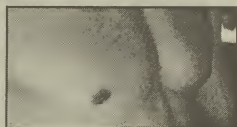
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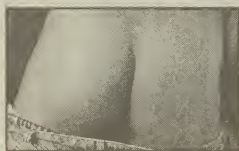
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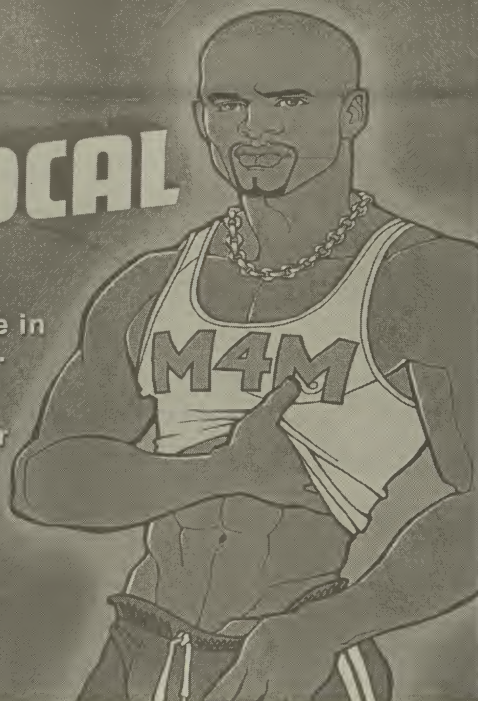


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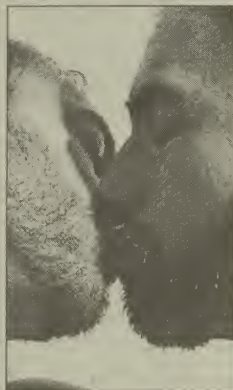
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